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WELCOME

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"Was there anyone swimming in the sea?" I asked my daughter who had spent the evening on the beach with her friends celebrating the end of their exams.

"No", she replied, "it was brown and gross, and full of slime". Bearing in mind this was north Kent you could be forgiven for assuming this was the sewage that Southern Water charge us for only to pump into the sea. Not on this occasion, however: "That'll be the May rot!", I replied. "The what?" she said.

So followed an explanation of the annual bloom of algae at this time of year when the sea temperature and sunshine increases. The algae then dies and the rotting red-brown slime chokes the sea until a big tide and a big blow eventually disperse it. It's one of those natural, annual cycles that sea anglers are all too familiar with; it can ruin the fishing and clog up your line and rig with the stinking gunk. No doubt many of you will have spent recent weeks cursing it. I try to look at it more positively: the annual bloom of May rot means that spring has definitely arrived and, while a few weeks of inconvenience follow, it marks the beginning of summer and many months of great fishing to come. Despite the rot I've still managed to winkle out a few fish like this hound – my first of the year.

This issue we focus on the start of summer with some favourite warm weather species and great venues to target them. Dave Lewis and I headed to the Gower Peninsula in search of golden grey mullet and were richly rewarded at the premiere UK venue to target them in the surf. Turn to page six for the full story.

Dr Roger Munro provides his expert insight into how to find and target the toothy grey triggerfish. Learning more about them as I researched his feature I discovered that they make particularly good eating and are a favourite table fish in other parts of the world. I'm not sure why this came as a surprise to me but it did. Should I find myself lucky enough to get the chance to catch one this summer there's a high chance I'll be taking it home to taste for myself. Find out more about fishing for triggers on page10.

Many of you will have fished with Bob Cox on his charter boats in the 1970s and 1980s. Bob was one of the first practitioners of boat casting, or what went on to be called 'uptiding'. It was an exciting time, no more so than for Bob's son Sam who grew up aboard his dad's boat amidst this revolution in boat fishing when some astonishing catches were made. This issue Sam recalls his childhood memories from this high-water mark of UK boat fishing. Don't miss the feature starting on page 46.

Congratulations to all the competitors at this year's Penn sponsored Sea League final which took place in Norfolk. You can read the full report of the match, plus find the full results, on page 90.

Finally, this month we are giving away a Yeti Hopper cool bag worth £325. Don't miss the chance to win this fantastic prize. Details of how to enter are on page 87.

Until next month
David

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(premium rate line, operated by Talk Media Sales on behalf of Kelsey Publishing Ltd. Calls cost 65p per minute from a BT landline; other networks and mobiles may vary. Lines open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm).
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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK ISSUES
UK subscription and back issue order line: 0845 241 5159
Overseas subscription order line: 0044 (0) 1959 543 747
Toll free USA subscription orderline: 1-888-777-0275
UK customer service team: 01959 543 747
For customer service support, please visit: help.kelsey.co.uk
Customer service and subscription postal address: Sea Angler magazine, Customer Service Team, Kelsey Media, The Granary, Downs Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6AL
Current subscription offers: shop.kelsey.co.uk/
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Cover photo by David Mitchell

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ON SALE MAY 24TH – JUNE 20TH

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WORDS
DAVID MITCHELL
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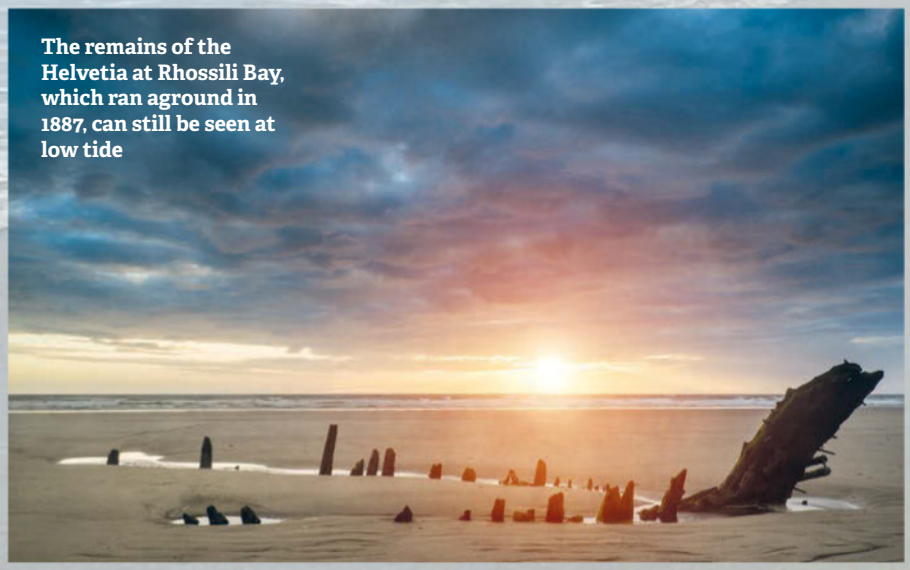
SEACHING THE SURF FOR GOLD

As summer approaches, David Mitchell and Dave Lewis fish a classic surf beach for golden grey mullet where the frothing sea scum proves to be an unexpected clue for tracking down the fish



The remains of the Helvetia at Rhossili Bay, which ran aground in 1887, can still be seen at low tide

"I'll be back by five," I said to my wife, "six at the latest…". With four children to manage and entertain the opportunities to escape and do some fishing can be few and far between on my annual summer pilgrimage to my beloved Gower Peninsula. Despite this, I had set myself a challenge for the fortnight: to catch five different species while I was there. Size of fish wasn't a consideration as long as they were fairly hooked.

With a few bass from the rocky gullies under my belt, and a small eyed ray from the adjacent beach, it was time to target a golden grey mullet to add to my tally. Far from being an elusive species the beaches of the Gower are a hot spot for golden greys between June and September each year. The biggest chance of success lay in the vast sweeping sands of Rhossili beach at the western end of the peninsula. Much has been written about fishing here and it regularly appears on lists of the UK's favourite beaches. It was here I had arranged to meet Dave Lewis for an afternoon fishing the surf in search of those mysterious mullet.

There's no denying Rhossili is an awe-inspiring place to fish with the Worm's Head at the southern end and the island of Burry Holmes capping the bay at the northern end facing the Burry Inlet and the Loughor Estuary.

It's as close to a classic Irish surf beach as you'll find in the UK and as well as the mullet it is primarily known as a bass fishing venue. It was one of Clive Gammon's favourite places to spend a tide drowning a bunch of worms. I have to admit I've never found it particularly productive as a bass venue but this hasn't stopped me coming back time after time. There's something spiritual about standing waist deep in the surging fizz of the surf here with the salt spray in your nose and a rod in your hand waiting for the thump of a good fish.

Hold your rod feeling for bites, so travel light

HILL END

We parked at Hill End campsite in the village of Llangennith at the northern end of the beach, where scores of neoprene clad surfers were trudging along the footpath through the dunes leading to the beach. Mission number one would be to give them as wide a berth as possible and while my preferred route was north over the stream running over the beach towards Burry Holmes, I was happy on this occasion to take Dave's advice and head south in the direction of Rhossili village. As a rough guide, anywhere adjacent to or past the little white cottage facing the beach at the bottom of Rhossili Downs is a good place to start fishing. It's also usually as far as you need to go to avoid the surfers.

With a moderate south-westerly wind and two hours of the tide still to ebb conditions were ideal. Mid-sized tides are a good idea here and the fishing tends to drop off mid-way through the flood and over high water. Travelling light is always advisable too: on big tides the water floods the beach so quickly you can spend more time preventing tripods and tackle boxes from being washed away than actually fishing. We were fishing with light tackle tactics casting simple paternoster rigs and 2-3oz leads into the shallow surf tables.

I was using a 1-3oz flattie rod with a small fixed spool reel loaded with 20lb braid. You could quite easily go lighter than this and use a lure rod. The golden greys will move through the shallowest of water and can often be seen with their dorsal fins in only inches of water. It's easy to forget this and cast way too far; a gentle lob of 20 or 30 yards is normally all that's necessary. On an incoming tide one of the best tactics can be to drop your bait on the

A plump flounder boosted the species count

sand at the tide line and stand well back so as not to spook the fish. As soon as the tide covers your bait the fish will literally be at the water's edge as soon as there's enough water to cover their backs.

A pound of fresh local maddies (harbour rag) were the only bait we needed for the mullet. Bunches of them wriggling on the hook are irresistible to not just the mullet but flounder and bass too. I have to say that I find loading small hooks with small, soft wriggling maddies while standing in the surf, invariably in a stiff wind, well, maddeningly fiddly. However, it's worth the effort. While you'll catch other species on lugworm and king rag, the golden greys are almost exclusively caught on maddies. Why they feed on them on an open surf beach, where it's almost the last food item they would come across naturally, has always perplexed me. In fact, what is it exactly that they are feeding on over what appears to be totally featureless, clean sand? I had hardly had time to ponder this thought when Dave was into his first fish of the afternoon – a lovely mullet of around a pound-and-a-half. Two or three more followed in quick succession including a number of schoolie bass and a nice plump flounder, which was species number three of the trip for me.

A perfect specimen mullet for Dave

Bunches of maddies on small hooks are deadly

"There's something spiritual about standing waist deep in the surging fizz of the surf here with the salt spray in your nose and a rod in your hand, waiting for the thump of a good fish"

BLOOMING SCUM

While Rhossili is undeniably picturesque I have often noticed a green-brown scum on the surface of the water which is a bit of a distraction from the untouched raw nature of the location. I've often wondered whether this is caused by the amount of sheep droppings washed into the water off the bryn during heavy rainfall; the nutrients in the droppings could be causing the algae to bloom. Whether it's naturally occurring or not, what became apparent during our session was the mullet were present the same time we were fishing amongst the scum on the surface of the water. Several more fish followed and the average size of between a pound-and-a-half and two pounds was excellent considering the British shore-caught record is only 3lb 8oz. I've often thought that a sustained effort targeting them here would be one of the better chances of securing yourself a British record fish. As the afternoon wore on, the scum came and went and so did the bites until mid-way up the tide when things dropped off to the point that my promise to my wife that I would be back by 5pm was, finally, one I could stick to, and we called it a day.

That evening as I was gutting and filleting a mullet that hadn't made it back alive. I opened up its stomach to find out what it had been feeding on – something I'm fascinated about doing with every fish I take for the table. What I discovered was a stomach packed tightly with dark green algae resembling finely chopped spinach. At last! An answer to my question: the scum in the water was suspended algae which the mullet were gorging on by filtering it out of the water. This explained exactly why bites were so much more frequent when we were fishing amongst the algae. Fish are opportunists and mullet no different – maddies present a high protein snack while the fish are in harbours and estuaries and won't turn them down, even if they are presented in the unlikely setting of a storm beach, but they aren't being actively sought out by feeding fish. Your best strategy for these mullet is therefore to find the scum and you'll find the feeding mullet.

Fishing is nothing if not fickle though, and I returned the following day in what appeared to be very similar conditions and tides. But the fish were nowhere to be seen – scum or no scum. The only explanation I could come up with was a change in wind direction had moved them, and the algae, elsewhere. The only saving grace of this return trip was a solitary smoothhound pup which, while unremarkable in itself, I was thrilled with. You see, the following day we were returning home to Kent. This was the last chance saloon for me to complete my Gower challenge and that little hound made it species number five of the trip and mission accomplished. Tidy, as they say here in Wales! ■

GETTING THERE

To get to Hill End campsite drive through the village of Llangennith and turn left at Moor Lane. Follow the road until you reach Hill End. Parking is £5 per day. Toilets, a shop and a café are all available onsite. Follow the signposted footpath through the dunes to the beach. Local maddies can be bought at Mainwarings Angling Centre in Swansea or Country Stores in Gowerton.

Words by
ROGER MUNRO

TREMENDOUS TRIGGERS!

Roger Munro explores one of the UK's strangest summer visitors and shares his expert tips on where and how to successfully catch the toothy grey triggerfish

Productive fishing on piers is akin to flicking a switch. Following three hours of fruitless fishing on a flooding neap tide in late July, my fresh ragworm bait mounted on a single hook at the end of a flowing 20-inch snood remained untouched.

I had ensured that the bait was laid alongside one of the mussel-clustered pier stanchions in the hope of enticing my quarry for the day – the obscure, mystical, grey triggerfish. Just as frustration started to set in, something suddenly hammered my bait; whatever it was went off like a rocket, rapidly zigzagging all over the place causing the ratchet on my multiplier to scream as it stripped off yards of line. Although many fish species such as bass, smoothhound, wrasse and mullet can induce highly characteristic, aggressive, rod-tip responses, this was something altogether different – a real force of nature. I managed to grasp the butt of the rod as it was about to disappear over the pier-rail. As I peered over into the clear water and saw the strange looking oval-shaped fish with a laterally compressed body; I knew in that instant that I had hooked my target – the bizarre, coveted triggerfish.

The grey triggerfish is principally a fish of shallow waters in the western Atlantic Ocean but it is also found on the eastern side of the Atlantic around the British Isles and in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. A relatively poor long-distance swimmer, it probably crossed the Atlantic as a result of the movement of water in the Gulf Stream and breeds in the Mediterranean in water temperatures above 12°C. At one time believed to be an uncommon visitor to northern European seas, it was once considered to be at the edge of its distribution along the coastline of the southern parts of the British Isles. However, the increase in sea temperatures of around 1°C in the last 30 years, induced by climate change, has attracted this, and other newcomers, to our southern shores and it is now moving north quite quickly with recorded catches as far as the northernmost coast of Scotland. As recently as 2005 a triggerfish being caught in British waters made national news, but now they are being caught in the UK regularly, if you know where to find them.

A brace of triggers from a North Wales rock mark

This alien-looking creature of the ocean is a medium-sized fish that can grow to 61cm, but a more common length is 43cm and is usually less than 5lb in weight. The small beak-like mouth at the tip of the snout has fleshy lips but their sharp teeth and strong jaws are useful for crushing the shells of mussels and other prey. The eyes, which can move independently of each other, are set far back near the top of the head. This gives them extraordinary vision. The tail has elongated tips but it's their well-defined second dorsal fin and anal fin which are used to power them along. Triggerfish get their name from these spiny dorsal fins erected as a means of defence against predators. Should a predator open its mouth wide enough to eat the triggerfish, it wouldn't be able to swallow it. The first, very strong dorsal fin is raised and the second part of the dorsal fin fits into a groove to keep the spine raised up. The second part can be pressed down like a trigger to lower the spine. They use this as a defence mechanism when threatened. There is also a sharp spine where the pelvic fins should be, and this again is part of the fish's protection system. They sometimes have blue on their flanks that catch the light and occasionally a hint of yellow about the head. The dorsal and anal fins also carry blue lines. Their nickname is "file fish" as their skin is very abrasive and feels like a rasp or file. Having all of its fins near the rear of its body allows a triggerfish to use its body and mouth to reach choice bits of food. Male grey triggerfish are substantially larger than females, but their lifespan has been estimated to be 13 -15 years old for both sexes.

The British shore caught record for this species is a fish of 5lb 14oz caught off Lynmouth Rocks in Devon in 1995. The boat caught record was set in 2002 off Tywyn Beach in Wales with a triggerfish of 6lb 4oz.

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The grey triggerfish is primarily a demersal species found around piers, wrecks and rocky places and feeds on bottom-dwelling invertebrates such as shrimps, crabs, molluscs, sand dollars (flat, burrowing sea urchins), starfish and sea cucumbers. Its strong teeth are specialised for making holes in hard-shelled prey and it is known as a notorious bait stealer. Triggerfish are known to wreak feeding havoc on less fortunate dwellers in their vicinity; so much so that smaller fish often follow them to feast on their leftovers.

There are several documented instances of triggerfish feeding voraciously on various types of raw supermarket meats such as pork, chicken, beef or lamb suspended just below the surface, with pork apparently being the favoured meat.

Triggerfish frequently exhibit an interesting feeding behaviour. They will move away from where they usually live such as a reef structure and assume a vertical position a few inches above the seabed. The fish then directs a jet of water at the sand with enough force to reveal sand dollars or sea urchins hidden just under the surface. If there is no sand dollar there, the trigger fish moves along a yard and continues this behaviour until it locates one. When the triggerfish exposes a sand dollar, the fish remains in a vertical hovering position and repeats the blowing action to further expose the sand dollar. The triggerfish then darts in and grabs the sand dollar with its beak-like teeth, lifts it about two yards above the bottom, and drops it. This process is repeated until the sand dollar lands upside down. Again, it assumes a vertical position directly over the sand dollar, and with jaws closed, thrusts downward and crushes the centre before eating the soft inside.

They can be territorial and aggressive, especially when males fiercely guard nests dug by females in sandy seabeds during the breeding season and may swim at divers and attempt to drive them away if they get too close to the nest. While the grey triggerfish found in UK waters is too small to harm humans the larger triggerfish found in tropical waters are more dangerous. They seem to particularly like the earlobes of scuba divers!

The grey triggerfish uses a series of behaviours, body postures and colouration patterns to communicate status within its social group. Dominant-ranking fish use a light or dark-banded colouration and tend to frequently approach and pass back and forth amongst lower-ranking individuals as part of an overall social behaviour. Despite their appearance and tough grey skin

Those teeth are designed for crushing shellfish

Jason George with a nice trigger

Dr Munro with a Mumbles trigger

triggerfish are delicious and considered excellent eating fish in many parts of the world.

One thing that we anglers have in common is that we are always thrilled when we catch an impressive fish. But there's something unique in catching your first triggerfish – I have seen it in the spontaneous delight, surprise and excitement of fellow anglers who react in much the same way as a young child reacts to a magician's sleight of hand. It ignites in them a sense of awe and intrigue for the ocean and its incredible bounty of fish. It has been said that the most beautiful experience in the world is the experience of the mysterious. I for one always feel a sense of privilege and wonderment when I hold a freshly caught mystical and strange triggerfish in my adrenaline-filled, shaking hands. ■

"As I peered over into the clear water and saw the strange looking oval-shaped fish with a laterally compressed body; I knew in that instant that I had hooked my target - the bizarre, coveted, triggerfish"

TOP TIPS AND TRICKS FOR TRIGGERS

- A one-hook classic leger paternoster rig setup tends to work well.
- Place a floating bait as close as possible to pier stanchions, rock faces or on top of weed beds allowing the bait to drift slowly around the area with the tidal flow.
- They can also be caught on open-coast rock ledges that give in to moderately deep water, or amongst the boulders and rough ground around breakwaters.
- If you can see triggerfish swimming at the bottom of a pier in clear water, don't be tempted to follow the fish dangling your bait in front of it. The fish will seldom take the bait. It's always best to leave the bait alone once it has been presented at your chosen location. Natural movement is the best way to catch triggerfish.
- Use 30lb braided line or a 20lb fluorocarbon which is suited for strong abrasion.
- Small, strong, circle hooks are always best as they cause less damage and are easier to unhook.
- Remember that because triggerfish have such small mouths, catches decrease significantly with increasing hook size.
- Once caught, do not be tempted to lift the rod directly as triggerfish can be extremely lively.
- Play the fish until it gets tired, slowly drawing it toward the surface. The exception to this is when you hook a triggerfish directly under a pier because it may get snagged around the pier supports. Under such circumstances try and lift the fish quickly away from snagging hazards.
- To release them safely, carefully twist and turn the hook out of their mouth. Use a drop net to return them gently when you catch them on an elevated venue such as a pier.
- In my experience, triggerfish appear to be attracted by the colour red. Consider using red beads, red sequins or small red spoons attached above your baited hooks.
- Float fished baits fished deep can also produce good results.
- Mussels and peeler crabs are the most obvious fish due to the triggerfish's natural diet of shellfish and crustaceans. However, since they are such opportunistic feeders other baits such as mackerel strip, prawn and squid will also catch this species. Ragworm are also a very effective bait; almost all the triggerfish I have been fortunate enough to land were caught with fresh king ragworm bait.
- Triggerfish have a very small mouth so hook sizes should be kept correspondingly small at size 1 or 2 and as sharp as possible since the inside of the mouth is very hard and bony. A size 2 Kamasan B940 Aberdeen hook is a good choice.
- Because they have such sharp teeth, they are able to bite through monofilament lines taking both the bait and the hook. It is therefore advisable to keep your fingers away from the fish's mouth area. I have seen many an angler with bleeding fingers because of this!
- Maintain a discreet presence since triggerfish are sensitive, easily spooked and have very good eyesight in clear water.
- They prefer settled weather patterns but will favour warm south-westerly winds in more unsettled conditions. In periods of rougher seas and windy weather they move out to deeper water.
- The use of ground-bait such as a mashed cocktail of mackerel strips, squid, ragworm, mussels and prawns can often be the difference between success and failure be it from piers, breakwaters, jetties or open coast rocks.
- Remember that in bright conditions the fish will seek deeper water (except, for instance, when they are active in the shadows under a pier) and in cloudy conditions they may be feeding higher in the water.

Words by
LINDSEY GREEN
Illustration by ANDY STEERE

PERFECTING THE PATERNOSTER

STEP-BY-STEP

Sea fishing innovator Lindsey Green looks into the origins of the paternoster, and provides a step-by-step guide to how to tie his new luminous anti-tangle rig – the T-Boom

When I was young, I was first introduced to paternoster tackle when I was part of an interclub junior quiz team. I was told that it got its name – literally (in Latin) 'Our Father' from the Oratio Dominica (the Lord's Prayer) – from Cistercian monks who used to breed carp in stew ponds for eating. The monks were forbidden meat on a Friday so the carp in their stew ponds became the next best thing on the menu. Supposedly, they used an early form of the paternoster rig to catch them usually, and this made me chuckle, with wooden poles to which horsehair fibres were attached. Being young, I went along with this – it seemed logical after all and I had no reason to question it – though it now seems likely that this is yet another example of folklore that has grown up around the original form of the tackle.

In some quarters it is associated with St Peter catching a fish in the New Testament, presumably with a paternoster rig. He drew a coin from its mouth and, since there are thumb-like marks on the body of the John Dory, many people associate this species with the legend. Other people draw links between fishing close to Paternoster Row in London, where monks used to process to St Pauls Cathedral, while others drew connections with rosaries. These were widespread in ancient communities and had numerous beads above a larger cross at the bottom. Since the tackle was described as having a weight at the bottom while grooved beads, attached to hooks via traces of horsehair, gut or even silk, were placed in positions above, this seems likely to be the most logical contender. Whether this is accurate or simply a believable theory is open to debate.

In truth, I am not sure that anyone knows the origins of the tackle with absolute certainty. It is mentioned in Izaak Walton's 1653 edition of The Compleat Angler but it was likely in common use already. Indeed, one of the few things that we can say for certain is that the principle of fishing hooks above the weight was established centuries ago.

Nowadays, the tackle has evolved into numerous forms. There are clipped down versions for long distance casting, sliding paternosters, combination paternoster legers, flapper rigs where distance is not necessary, rigs for bream and fishing over reefs from boats, floating versions for tackling shoaling fish like mackerel, pollack and scad, and all manner of different takes on the same theme. Despite its popularity, however, it lacks the sophistication of modern, clipped-down rigs, pulley rigs, up-and-overs, legers and many more. So why has its popularity endured?

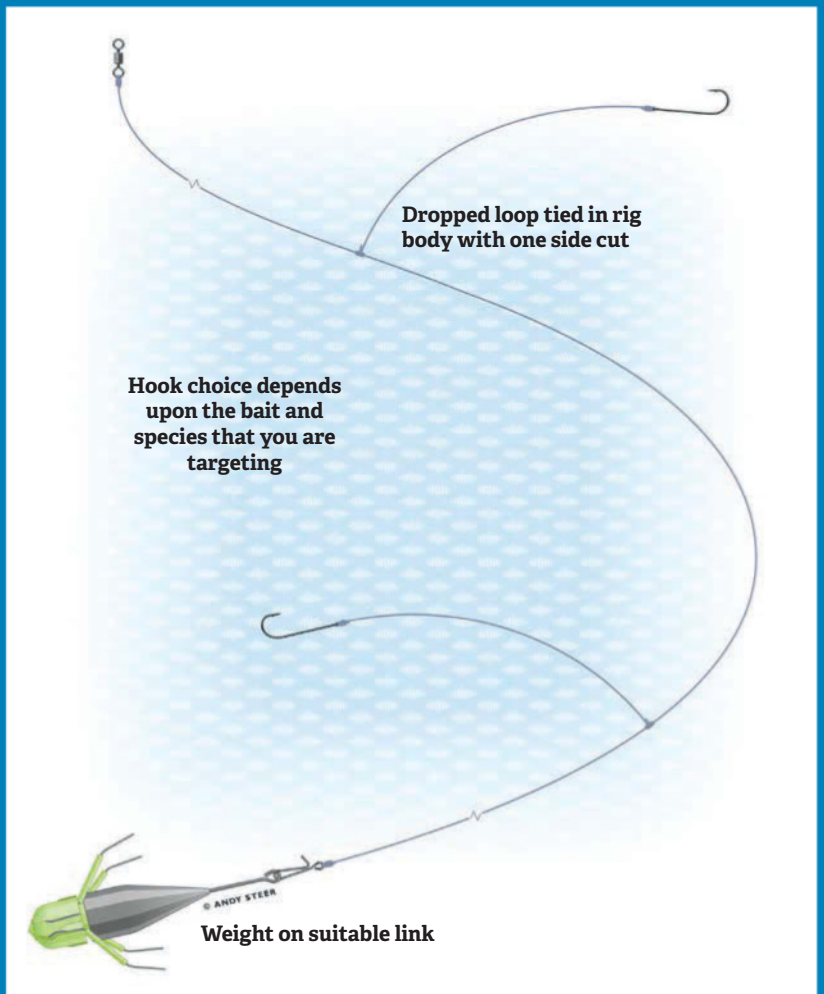
The basic reason for its success is that it works, to which several factors contribute: with the traces above the weight, there is less chance of the hooks becoming entangled in weed, which has given rise to the rotten bottom tackle and even, if you want to be technical, the drop shot rig; You can fish multiple traces: there is less likelihood of tangles, especially if you are careful with the length and breaking strains of the hook lengths; If you are fishing close in from a height, you can even raise the hooks off the seabed to attract the attention of passing fish – be careful with this one though: If you are casting off a beach, anything further than 65 yards from the shore will be resting flat on the sand, presenting the baits horizontally, not vertically.

All in all, there are several species which are quite happy to take baits fished paternoster tackle, including scratching species like whiting, pouting, rockling and dogfish, float-fished species such as scad, mackerel and pollack but also harder fighting fish such as bream. Nor is this list exhaustive since numerous others are taken on it every year.

BASIC

At its most basic level, you can tie a couple of widely spaced dropper loops in leader material, cut them near the knot and then tie on hooks before attaching a weight to the bottom. It is simple, catches a number of fish, and is

BASIC DROPPER LOOP


Dropped loop tied in rig body with one side cut
Hook choice depends upon the bait and species that you are targeting
© ANDY STEER
Weight on suitable link

cheap to make. Unfortunately, the species to which it is most attractive, at least down my way, like fish baits, particularly in the winter months where fishing, especially in February and March, can be hard. The strips twirl, causing the traces to spin and twist, ruining presentation in the process and requiring that a new tackle be made as soon as possible. Since the traces are as thick as the leader line, there is also some concern that bait presentation is crude and the tackle off-putting to some species which require more finesse in bait presentation.

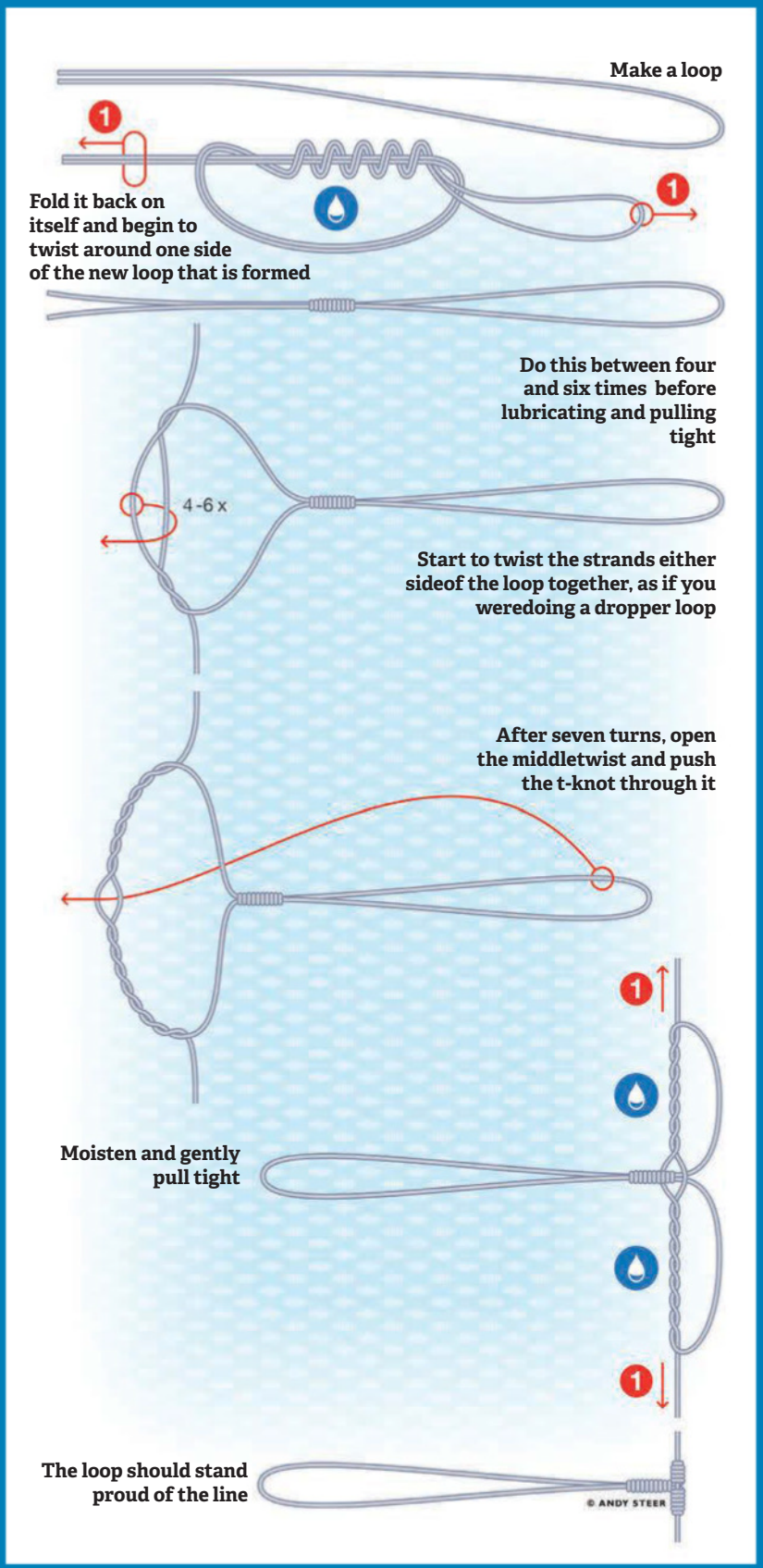
ADVANCES IN DESIGN

Recently, there have been advances at the simple end of the tackle, moving away from sophisticated, tackle-heavy rigs. The T-knot improved the trace's ability to be held away from the mainline but, since the traces can droop, was pretty good but unfortunately not perfect. There is still a bit of tangling and also, without swivels, the problems with fish baits and twisting remained.

To get around this I introduced a method of sleeving the T-knots with luminous tubing and, by pulling back on the rubber, exposed enough of the loop to secure a swivel. You do this by passing the loop through one eye of the swivel, over the top of the other and down the back of the swivel to lock it in place. I then released the luminous tubing and pulled it forward so that it sheathed one side of the swivel while allowing the other eye to do its work: spinning so that the fish strips on the hook did not ruin the trace. It works pretty well although its efficiency lessens the longer the T-Knot is. Shorter ones work better.

The first time that I used the swivelled T-knot it worked very well. However, what

T-KNOT - LOOP

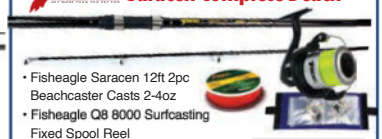

Make a loop
1
Fold it back on itself and begin to twist around one side of the new loop that is formed
1
Do this between four and six times before lubricating and pulling tight
4-6 x
Start to twist the strands either sideof the loop together, as if you weredoing a dropper loop
After seven turns, open the middletwist and push the t-knot through it
1
Moisten and gently pull tight
1
The loop should stand proud of the line
© ANDY STEER

Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH
RRP: £89.97
£39.99

Fisheagle Saracen Complete Beach



- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721
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RRP £139.99
OUR PRICE
£109.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL
RE0858	4XL

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Shakespeare Catch More Fish Spin Kit

The Catch More Fish 2 Spin Kit is ideal for beginners and offers great value for money. The kit includes a 9ft rod with a pre-spooled reel and a tackle box full of terminal items to get you started.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4151	9ft	40-80g	2	~~£54.99~~	£40.00

Shakespeare Firebird Boat Multiplier Rod & Reel + Lucas Pirk Combo

Firebird Combos are perfect for anglers looking for a reliable product without breaking the bank. They display strong and attractive Firebird artwork and cosmetics that appeal to anglers of all ages.

HALF PRICE

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4898	7ft	20-30lb	2	~~£69.99~~	£35.00

Century Beachcasters

NEW

Fireblade Surf Rods

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
CN0394	13ft	4-6oz	2	~~£315.00~~	£275.00
CN0505	14ft	4-7oz	2	~~£370.00~~	£325.00

Fireblade GT Glass Tip Surf Rod

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
CN0532	13ft	4-6oz	2	~~£315.00~~	£275.00
CN0533	14ft	4-7oz	2	~~£370.00~~	£325.00

Abu Garcia Max X Bass Spinning Combos

The MAX X combos are light, modern, strong and reliable spinning combos for predator fishing. Comes with a MAX X rod & reel.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
PU11132	8ft	20-60g	2	~~£112.99~~	£50.00
PU11135	10ft	15-40g	2	~~£129.99~~	£60.00

iMAX Thermo Suit

Designed for winter wear it features a lovely warm thermal lining and is cut to allow easy movement when walking, casting and fishing.

CODE	SIZE
SV9635	M
SV9636	L
SV9637	XL
SV9638	2XL

ALL SIZES
RRP: £129.99
£89.99

Stillwater Boat & Shore Polar PVC Wellington Boots & Lining

The rugged PVC construction keeps out the water, while the removable fleece liner keeps the heat in.

ALL SIZES
RRP: £29.99
£19.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0511	7
RE0512	8
RE0513	9
RE0515	10/10.5
RE0516	11
RE0517	12

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reel

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	~~£67.99~~	£40.00

Penn Spinfisher VI Spinning Reels

- IPX5 Sealed body and spool design
- Available in Standard & Long Cast

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1898	4500	390m/0.25mm	~~£159.99~~	£105.00
PE1899	5500	390m/0.28mm	~~£169.99~~	£115.00
PE1900	6500	355m/0.33mm	~~£184.99~~	£125.00
PE1901	5500LC	240m/0.30mm	~~£204.99~~	£150.00
PE1902	6500LC	325m/0.33mm	~~£219.99~~	£145.00

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L	GR2495	GR2503
XL	GR2496	GR2504
2XL	GR2497	GR2505

ALL SIZES
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iMAX Oceanic Luggage

Easy to clean with sallwater resistant zippers.

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
SV24393	Rucksack	~~£74.99~~	£45.00
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SV24400	Cooler Wallet	~~£24.99~~	£10.00

Abu Garcia Ambassadeur CS Pro Rocket Level Wind 7000

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CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
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SALE

Due to its innovative Live Spindle construction, the PENN Squall is lightweight, quick to recover, and very castable. The Squall II is more angler-friendly than ever before, thanks to PENN's patented Fast Gear Access Sideplate.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE2320	30 RHW	495yds/80lb	~~£244.99~~	£89.99
PE2322	40 RHW	580yd/80lb	~~£254.99~~	£99.00
PE2323	40 LHW	580yd/80lb	~~£249.99~~	£99.00

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- Super lightweight shelter
- Pegging points and sand skirt
- External rod holders
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- Comes in storage bag with handles
- 110x20x14cm

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£95

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NEW

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

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White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
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A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

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Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
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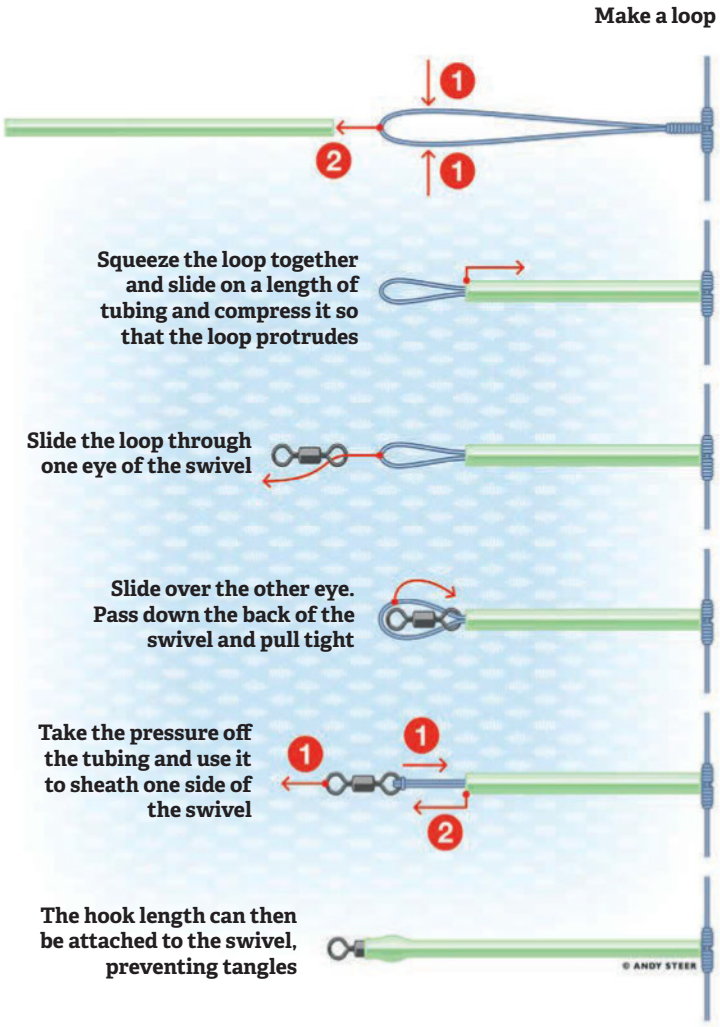
YETI
BUILT FOR THE WILD.

was particularly interesting was that I was catching on a night where other anglers were struggling. At one point I had five small dogfish and several whiting while the other anglers had not caught anything at all. Since I was using an ultraviolet torch to help the luminous tubing glow, I began to wonder if this was making a difference. I gave the angler next to me, who had not had a bite, one of my made-up rigs. Now it could have been coincidence but, within seconds of casting, he proceeded to catch a dogfish and, after that, carried on catching.

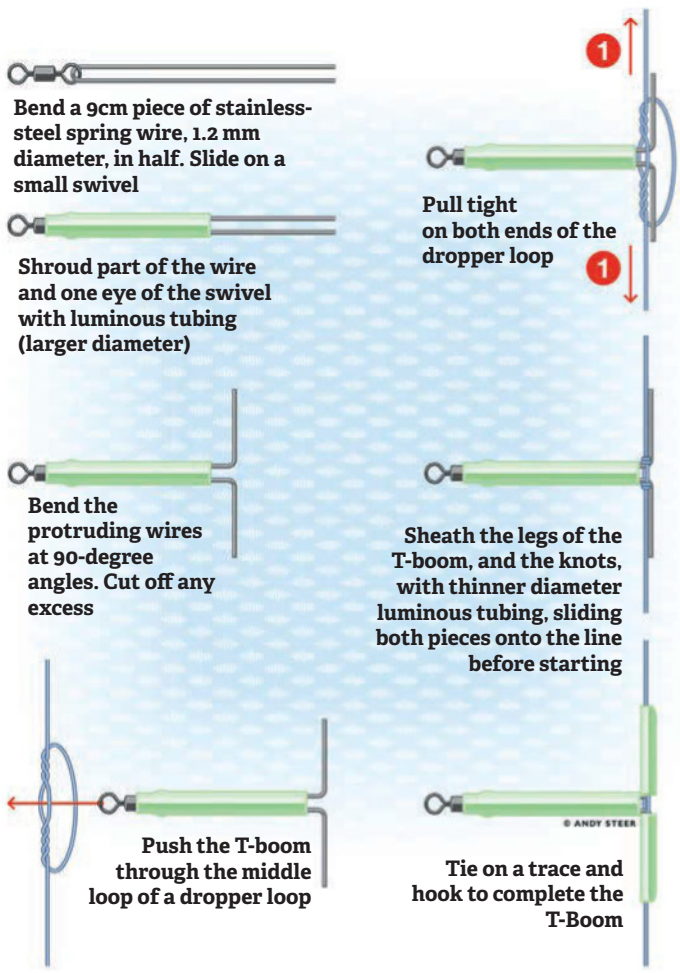
Since then, I have used the rig on several occasions to see what happened. I took a friend of mine to a mark where there were several anglers and, almost from the beginning, she started catching fish, mostly whiting and dogfish, of which she had five. Of the other four anglers there, no-one else had a doggie and very few whiting came up while my friend was catching them consistently. I have repeated the experiment several times since with the same result. It seems to me that there is something about adding a luminous component to the rig after all.

Overall, I have been very pleased with the rig's performance but I am not the sort of person to think 'good enough' and leave it at that. I have always had a nagging 'what if' quirk to my personality. so, of course, I took it further!

T-KNOT - ATTACHING A SWIVEL


Make a loop
1
2
1
Squeeze the loop together and slide on a length of tubing and compress it so that the loop protrudes
Slide the loop through one eye of the swivel
Slide over the other eye. Pass down the back of the swivel and pull tight
Take the pressure off the tubing and use it to sheath one side of the swivel
1
1
2
The hook length can then be attached to the swivel, preventing tangles
© ANDY STEER

T-BOOM


Bend a 9cm piece of stainless-steel spring wire, 1.2 mm diameter, in half. Slide on a small swivel
Shroud part of the wire and one eye of the swivel with luminous tubing (larger diameter)
Bend the protruding wires at 90-degree angles. Cut off any excess
Push the T-boom through the middle loop of a dropper loop
1
Pull tight on both ends of the dropper loop
1
Sheath the legs of the T-boom, and the knots, with thinner diameter luminous tubing, sliding both pieces onto the line before starting
Tie on a trace and hook to complete the T-Boom
© ANDY STEER

THE T-BOOM

My latest development of the paternoster was prompted by the T-Knot and sleeving method that I have described. It occurred to me that a small boom, nowhere near as big as those produced commercially, could be made out of strong materials, fitted with a swivel and, to increase its efficiency, sheathed in luminous tubing. It could hold out the traces properly, be very difficult to tangle and add in the luminous materials to pull in the fish when bites were scarce. It would also work perfectly with fish strips, with the little booms sticking out further than a swivel slid on the main line and, consequently, less prone to tangles.

Naturally, being me, I immediately set out experimenting, looking for the simplest way to achieve a creditable result. My friends joke that I use wire for everything – I don't, but, to be honest, everything has to be made out of something and stainless steel spring wire is perfect for any number of things to do with sea fishing. Accordingly, I took nine centimetres of 1.2 mm spring wire, folded it in half, hairpin fashion, slid on a small swivel and sheathed half of the swivel and the end of the loop in luminous tubing. I folded one of the protruding wires up and the other down.

Of course, I had to attach the boom – I call it the T-Boom – to the line. To me, the simplest way of doing this was to push the horizontal, sheathed part, of the boom through the middle loop of a dropper loop, pull tight and then use a smaller diameter luminous tubing to sheath both of the vertical legs. This way, any pull from a taking fish would have no chance whatsoever to pull the boom free from the line. The illustration shows the rig clearly but the real question is, will it work? My feeling is that this new version will be even better! ■

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LANCE

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Sinking - Rattling

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Slow floating - Rattling

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WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS CLARK

CLARKIE'S SOUTH COAST SUMMER HOT SPOT

Chris Clark shares one of his favourite Hampshire summer venues where giltheads, hounds and stingrays provide sweltering sport for all skill levels to enjoy

Once renowned flounder fishery, Pennington Sea Wall, nestling along the western end of the Hampshire coastline, is now just a distant memory of its former glory. However, in recent years there has been something of a silver lining to the collapse of the flounder fishing. With the rise in water temperature due to global warming gilthead bream are now showing in reasonable numbers during the summer months, along with a host of other species including smoothhound, stingray, black bream and bass.

Generally, I would recommend fishing the last three hours of the flood when there will be a slight right to left tidal pull, and then the first two hours of the ebb, when the tidal pull will be from left to right, with intermediate tides favoured for most species. On bigger tides, or if there is a brisk side wind, grippers will be required; otherwise, 3-4oz weights will be fine.

MAY & JUNE

Hard fighting smoothhound are the first of the summer species to arrive during late May or early June with high water coinciding with dusk offering the best chance to bag up on a few hounds. With relatively shallow water they put up an extremely good account of themselves; a cast of just 60 yards is more than adequate. Personally, I use a running ledger for the hounds with a size 3/0 uptide hook baited with either peeler crab or ragworm. While most of the fish will be in the 6-8lb bracket you do get a few double figure fish; hence never stray from your rod or it will disappear down the seawall in seconds!

Just a couple of weeks after the first smoothhound arrive some hefty stingray will start to make their presence felt with fish up to 40lb a real possibility. Last season I landed one of 20lb on a tiny size 6 wide gape hook baited with ragworm intended for the giltheads. Generally, a more traditional paternoster type trace is favoured for the stingrays with size 2/0 hooks along with a very large ragworm bait; again a 60 yard lob is more than adequate.

JULY ONWARDS

Both black and gilthead bream start to show from late July and remain active right through until early October. For both species I normally use a two-up and one-down paternoster trace with 18inch hook lengths along size 6 short shank, wide-gape hook. Personally, I like the Kamsan B983: strong, sharp and ideal for the task. As a matter of interest, one's catch rate is greatly increased when using a short shank, wide-gape hook compared with a standard Aberdeen pattern with a longer shank. Ragworm is by far the most productive bait but some of the bigger giltheads will take a variety of baits along this mark.

Bass can be taken throughout the year; the venue lends itself to both bait and lure fishing. Generally, the bass go up to around 4lb but on occasions, especially after a blow, larger fish do put in an appearance. Folks use a wide variety of lures; my own personal favourite is a Fiiish Black Minnow, but really the water clarity and both tidal and weather conditions need to be put into the equation when selecting a lure. When bait fishing for the better bass I always use a long running ledger along with a carp rod; it is great sport when you hook into a biggie.

A variety of other species can also be expected including silver eels, small wrasse and some very nice golden grey mullet which are always great sport to catch. Thick lipped mullet are abundant around the marshes filtering up all the creeks. These will often be taken with a floating crust. Again, I like to use a feeder rod, when the tip goes around it is something special – a great way to spend a few hours.

Apart from being a very safe venue far away from the summer crowds and swimmers it will also suit anglers of all ages and capabilities. However, there is one word of warning. The lower part of the wall, which becomes uncovered as the tide ebbs away, can be extremely slippery, especially the weed covered areas. ■

GETTING THERE

Getting there is straight forward: passing through Lymington on the A337 you take a left on the western outskirts at Pennington Cross roundabout onto Ridgeway Lane. Following down to the end of the lane just past the Chequers pub, which is a good watering hole and has excellent food, there is roadside parking for half a dozen cars (S041 8AH). From the parking area it is a 20 minute walk along the sea wall to the furthest outward eastern corner. The wall offers an excellent casting and fishing platform, but try and keep your tackle to the front edge of the footpath as it is used by numerous walkers, cyclists etc. The inside section of the seawall is a National Nature Reserve so please just leave your footsteps and take everything else home with you.

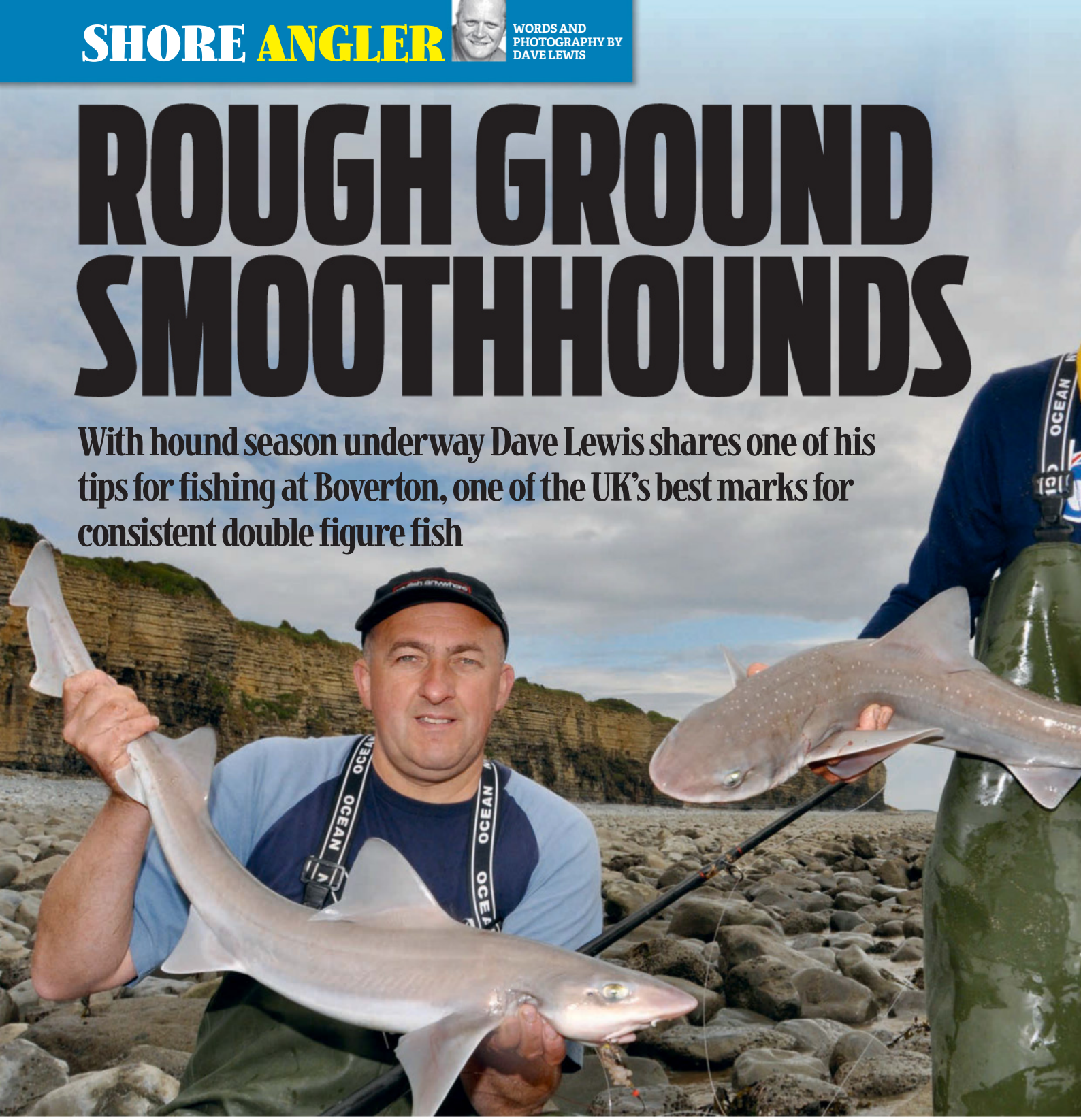
Hoburne Naish holiday park is just 20 minutes away from Pennington Sea Wall and is a great location to base yourself for a family holiday or weekend away with easily accessible fishing along this stretch of the south coast, including its own private footpath to Highcliffe Beach where you can be fishing within minutes of leaving your lodge. For more information visit www.hoburne.com

Hoburne Holidays

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVE LEWIS

ROUGH GROUND SMOOTHHOUNDS

With hound season underway Dave Lewis shares one of his tips for fishing at Boverton, one of the UK's best marks for consistent double figure fish



TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX

The 3rd generation of TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX rods captures the best of the past and brings new and defined benefits in manufacturing and material technology.

The advanced Graphex technology benefits the rods performance; improving durability, distance, tracking, sensitivity, dampening recovery to neutral and delivering noticeable weight saving.

SPORT SUPER MATCH MATCH SUPER MATCH LD ULTRALITE ST

Located on the Vale of Glamorgan coastline between Aberthaw and Stout Point, Boverton is a very productive venue. In terms of both the numbers and the quality of fish caught, this stretch of the Welsh coastline experiences some of the finest smoothhound fishing you'll find anywhere in the UK. The hounds are abundant from May until September when multiple catches averaging around 10lb apiece is the norm rather than the exception. Further, unlike many other venues in the area that can get very crowded when the smoothhounds are running, it's unusual to meet another angler at Boverton.

Whenever you are specifically targeting smoothhounds peeler crab is the key bait, including common green crabs, red edibles and the highly sought-after velvet swimming crab – regarded by many as being the ultimate bait for smoothhounds and bass. The optimum time to fish at Boverton is for about two-and-a-half hours either side of low water, ideally on mid-range to spring tides. Considering the rough ground, fishing a pulley rig that incorporates some form of rotten bottom is perfect, but be sure to bring plenty of spare leads; you'll need them!

Throughout the winter Boverton can be a very productive venue for cod and whiting, with the period January until March producing most of the better cod. Throughout the rest of the year anglers fishing here catch plenty of strap conger eel, dogfish, five species of ray-thornback, blonde, small-eyed, spotted and an occasional stingray, bass, huss, cod, whiting, pouting, rockling and several other species including summer triggerfish. Conger, dogfish and rays can be caught almost year-round. Various fish and squid baits will catch most other species, fresh black lug tipped with squid is the classic winter cod bait.

Boverton is not a venue that will suit everyone. You'll need a good pair of boots to fish here, and it will pay to travel as light as you can. Never fish here on your own, especially at night, as this is a remote and potentially hazardous venue where a badly sprained ankle could spell disaster. Always guard against having your retreat cut off by a flooding tide. Never walk or fish directly beneath the cliffs, which are continually crumbling and in recent years have resulted in significant rock falls. I would advise against fishing here on your own, especially at night. ■

GETTING THERE

Exit the A4265 just to the east of Llantwit Major, sign posted Boverton. Turn left just before the row of shops, and then take the first left. Follow the road for about a mile until the tarmac ends, then keep going. After several hundred yards you'll find a small car park on the left-hand side. From here it's a 10-minute walk through the woods down to the beach. The area generally fished is a further 10-minute walk along the beach in a westerly direction towards Stout Point. It's a tough walk over large boulders so not suited to those anglers who might be less able than others.

TACKLE SHOPS:
- **Barry Angling Centre: 01446 747638**
- **Ewenny Angling Centre: 01656 66269 or visit www.reelfishing.co.uk**
- **Keens Tackle and Guns: 01656 722448, or visit: www.keenstackleandguns.co.uk**

Words and Photography by MIKE THRUSSELL

JUNE 2024

THIS MONTH MIKE GUIDES YOU AROUND JUNE'S BEST TIDES AND TACTICS FOR DOVER SOLE FROM THE SHORE AND BIG BASS OVER SHALLOW INSHORE REEFS

SHORE SOLE

Sole, a muscular and tasty flatfish, have become a cult fish for anglers over recent years. They are also a species you need to specifically target as lucky captures are not that common.

TIDE TALK

Targeting sole in our larger muddy estuaries where the tide flow is fast indicates the smaller tides from the 12th to the 19th are good. The rising tides from the 16th to the 19th being the ideal ones to fish. Off deeper beaches, again the tides falling between the 12th and 19th look perfect. There's always a chance of a sole on bigger spring tides, but generally, the small to middle sized tides produce the most fish.

Dusk and dawn are always good times for sole bites, especially if this coincides with low water or high water slack. The sole tend to feed best in the two hours either side of low water, and the two hours before and the first hour after high water. The best conditions are during fairly settled seas with a light swell. A new warm, gentle wind off the sea brought in by the new tide is also advantageous. Sole tolerate fairly dirty water and can be caught in daylight. Serious sole anglers will always opt to fish the dark hours though, with low water turning in the dark ideal.

There is also some justification in saying that the biggest individual sole are often caught after a gale has passed through, the seas still well coloured but settling. This latter fishing will be inconsistent though.

TACTICS

A standard 4-6oz beachcaster with a 6500 multiplier and 18lb mono with a shock leader, or a 7000 fixed spool loaded with 20lb braid and 60lb leader covers all sole fishing. A 2-hook clipped up rig is very effective armed with short 12-inch 15/20lb fluorocarbon hook links and size 4 Aberdeen hooks. Anchoring the bait on the seabed can be key to getting bites. If bites are slow, shorten the hook length to just 8-inches and add an SSG shot 2-inches above the hook to keep the bait more static. Sole are usually within 60-yards of the shore line, but experiment by varying your casting distance.

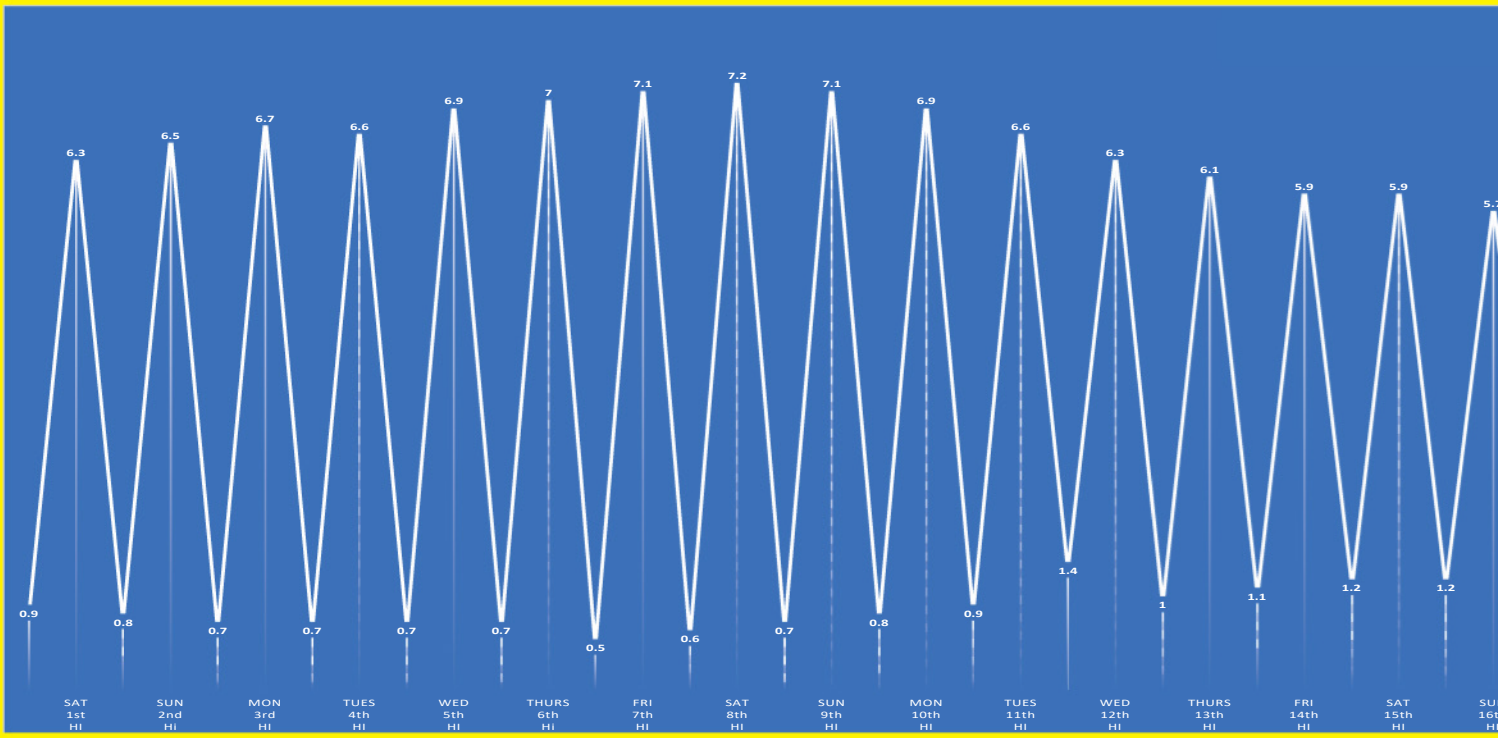
Fresh black and blow lug are top baits, as is king ragworm. Keep baits small, just enough to fully fill the length of the hook. They also take mussels, white rag and small chunks of razorfish, the latter after a blow in coloured water.

HOTSPOTS

East Anglian beaches, Essex, Kent, Sussex. Bristol Channel, Dee and Mersey estuaries. In Ireland, Waterford Estuary, East Cork, Cobh Harbour.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Flounders, dabs, plaice, codling, bass, whiting.



REEF BASS

June sees bass resident on the shallow inshore reefs as the sandeels shoal up. Not only are numbers of bass likely, you can also expect the odd bigger fish from 6lb up to specimen size.

TIDE TALK

The tides early in the month from the 1st to the 12th might be a touch too early for peak reef catches, but will produce fish. However, tides from the 16th to the 30th all look good. Refining these dates down, look at the rising tides from the 17th to the 25th as optimum, especially the 19th to the 22nd. The bigger tides from the 23rd to the 27th will produce over deeper water reefs where the tide flow is less, but on shallow ground up to 40ft or so the tide flow is likely to be faster and can limit catch returns.

Tides that flood in the early morning and evening are always prime, and ideal conditions are a period of calmer settled weather with a light wind off the sea, just enough to ripple the surface. Light cloud cover is another positive as it gives a background for the bass to see the silhouette of the sandeel or lure as it passes over them.

The best of the fishing is during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th hour of the flooding tide. Low and high slack water will see bites drop away to nothing. The outgoing ebb tide will also fish with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th hour being the best when the tide is running fastest.

TACTICS

A 12lb class boat rod and 4000 sized fixed spool reel loaded with 15lb braid and a 15lb fluorocarbon leader gives versatile balanced tackle for both casting lures and dropping live sandeel back from the boat.

An effective rig for sandeel is to tie a 3-way swivel to the leader. Off the lower swivel eye attach a 4 to 5ft length of lighter 12lb clear mono and add a light lead weight. To the swivel's middle eye attach 8 to 10ft of 15lb fluorocarbon ending in a size 1/0 Aberdeen hook. You can adjust the height the sandeel fishes at by increasing or decreasing the length of mono below the 3-way swivel.

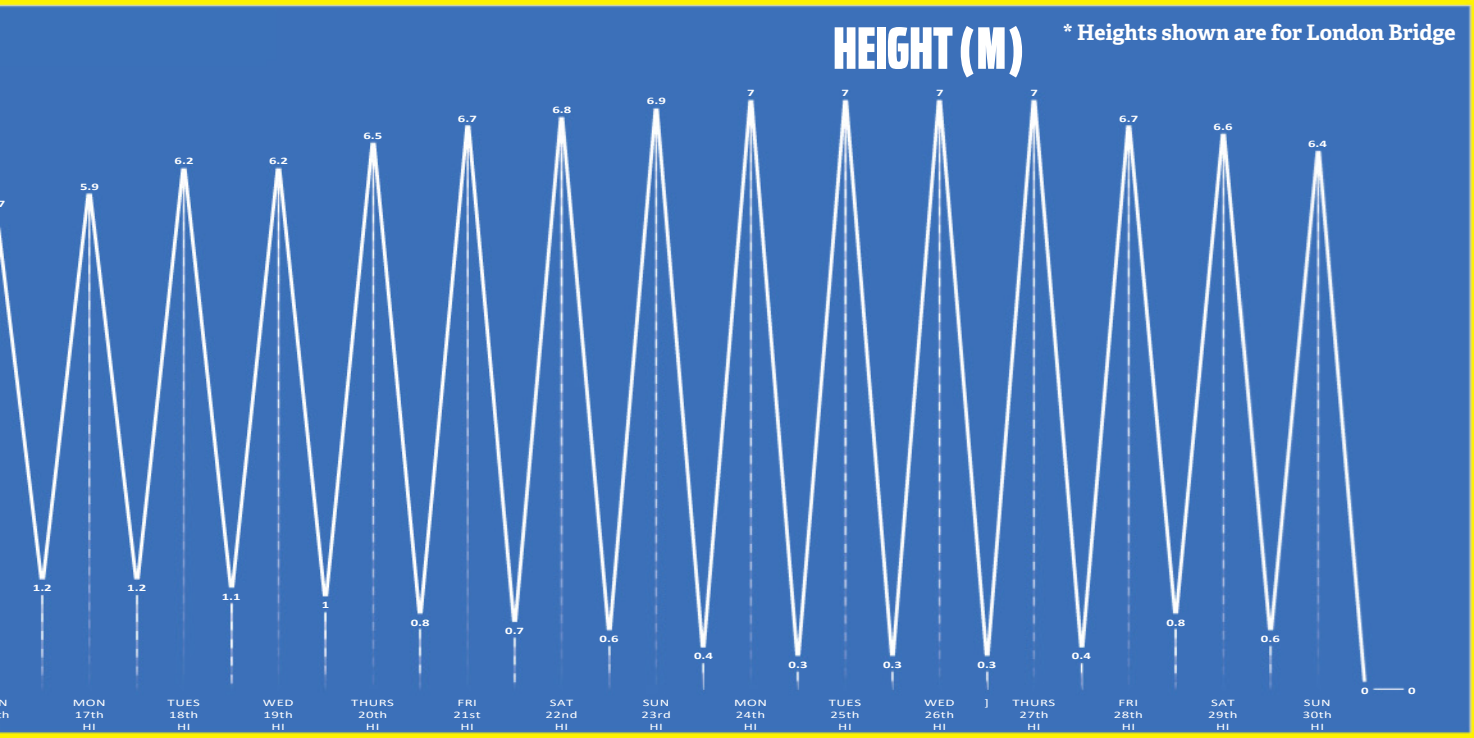
Whole sandeel is by far the best bait simply passing the hook point through the two jaws from the underside or in through the hard nose in front of the eyes. Surface popping and shallow diving plugs also work well, as will soft plastics, especially lead-headed shads and sandeel imitations.

HOTSPOTS

Sussex, Devon, Cornwall, south-west Wales, Cardigan Bay, North Wales, Cumbrian coast. In Ireland, counties Wicklow, Waterford and Cork.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Pollack, small coalfish.



Words
SIMON SMITH

Tales from the tideline

AND THINKING OF ANGLERS...

Simon Smith explores the mental health benefits of fishing

In recent times, much has rightly been made of the importance of looking after our mental health. Once disregarded as something we simply need to master, dismissed with a wave of the hand, a trivialising call for the need to display 'a stiff upper lip' and the call to 'make the best of things', now we, as a society, are much more open to dialogue about good mental health and how best to work toward achieving it. In short, we have become far more aware not just about the way we feel, but also about how we actually feel these things, especially on those days when our thoughts become a little wayward. To do this, the emphasis is very much upon using all those mental tools at our disposal, steering ourselves by focusing upon how mindful and intentional we are about all those little, and large, things we do on a day-to-day basis.

As anglers, we are fortunate in the fact that we already hold dear an activity that has a reputation as 'the contemplative man's recreation', a pastime that facilitates musing, dreaming and airy thought. To simplify angling this way, however, does it a great disservice. As a sport, fishing is a very broad church, offering almost everything to everyone in angling terms – want to hunt monsters in open, blue water? You can do that. Fancy some tiddler bashing in a tiny local pond? No problem. The possibilities are vast and wide-ranging, and so are the thought processes behind them. Underpinning all of these wide-reaching branches of the sport are two central modes of thinking that influence every approach that anglers may choose: the mindful and the mind-less. Not making sense? Let's look at it further.

There are those anglers for whom a fishing session does not stand alone in isolation. For them, when a session is planned there is often at least a week of preamble, build-up and preparation that goes into an endless array of tasks and chores: everything from bait gathering and preparation to loading new line onto reels and even replacing broken rod rings. To the thoughtful angler, all of these, rather than being distractions and unnecessary side-tracks, are essential components not just of the circuitry of the processes of angling, but also of its excitement. All possibilities and variables are considered beforehand, potential issues are given forethought and boxed off before they occur and the mindful angler is therefore feeling organised, calm and satisfied that they can enjoy the session to come.

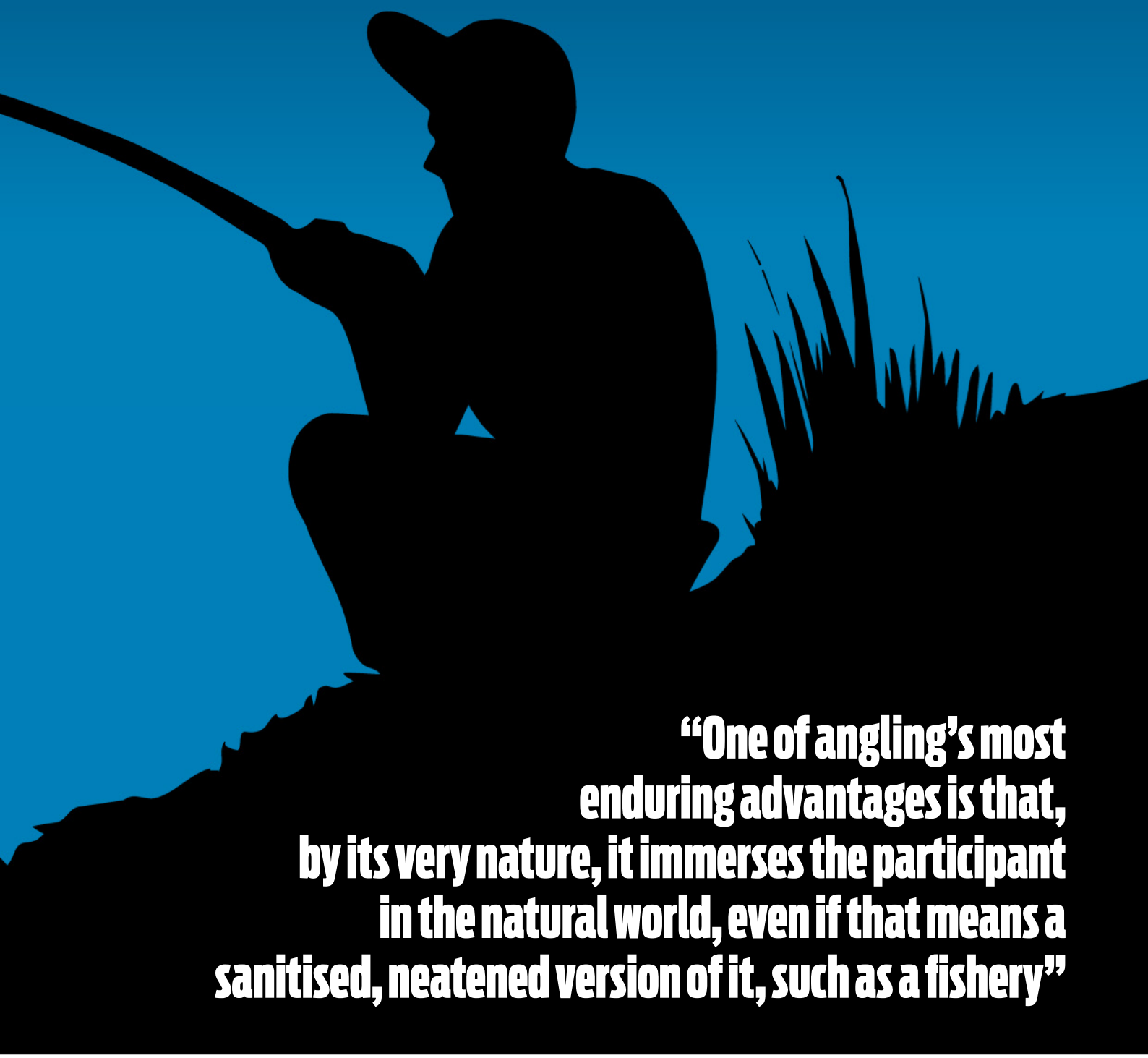
For these anglers, this mindful approach to angling is everything. These are the anglers who spent hour after hour in sheds and garages in a perpetual fog of WD-40 fumes, carrying out surgery on seized reels. These are the anglers who kept lengths of mono hanging from pins to pre-stretch the line they would use in experimental rig patterns, thus adding more gears to their angling engine, upskilling their knowledge and, in the process, making themselves better anglers in the future. For all those innovators and match anglers out there, their genesis can be found here, in the hours of prospecting new bait-digging sites and religiously practising their casting, with all thoughts pulling in the same direction, keeping in sight that clear end-goal of becoming the best possible angling version of themselves.

There are those, however, for whom the angling engine is forever left gently idling out of gear, and again, this is exactly how it needs to be for them rather than how it should be. Planning be damned – for these people, because their day-to-day lives may be filled with endless mental chores, reams of to-do lists, sequenced tasks and balanced judgements, angling needs to be a sanctuary of the empty mind. With fishing rod in hand, it becomes a place of thoughtless drifting along mental currents that carry them off and bear them to who-knows-where when they turn up with a bag full of bait, find the nearest spot and

simply plonk themselves down to go about their day.

One of angling's most enduring advantages is that, by its very nature, it immerses the participant in the natural world, even if that means a sanitised, neatened version of it, such as a fishery. The road between nature and good mental wellbeing is well-travelled, and during fishing sessions, anglers might consider the poet John Clare's assertion that "All nature has a feeling: woods, fields, brooks/Are life eternal; and in silence they/Speak happiness beyond the reach of books". When absorbed into, and by, the natural world, surrounded by the swinging of the seasons, the endless repetition of tides and the comings and goings of the weather cycles, we can all simply take a backward step and go with the literal and metaphorical flow, ceding all control to things over which we cannot possibly have any influence.

No matter how we look at it – simple pastime, passionate hobby, competitive sport or even a career – for the vast majority of us, the actual reality of fishing is a combination somewhere in the middle of all of these aspects. When all is said and done, when the mental clutter is cleared away and all the preparation is complete, each of us can finally discover our own middle ground where all these things combine, allowing the scrambled, fractured modern mind to find sanctuary as it becomes focused upon that simplest of still points where our line enters the water. ■



"One of angling's most enduring advantages is that, by its very nature, it immerses the participant in the natural world, even if that means a sanitised, neatened version of it, such as a fishery"

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Francis Ferguson, London
FISH: 23lb 2oz cod **LURE:** Green shad
VENUE: Cullivoe, Shetland
DATE: 7/5/24

Mark Slade
FISH: 13lb 7oz undulate ray **BAIT:** Whole squid
VENUE: West Sussex

Stephen Allen, Dorset
FISH: 32lb blonde ray **BAIT:** Launce strip
VENUE: Shambles, Weymouth **DATE:** 20/3/24

Dave Tessier, Cannock
FISH: 10lb 1oz haddock **LURE:** Hockeye
VENUE: Cullivoe, Shetland **DATE:** 8/5/24

Tom Baxter
FISH: 9lb 8oz blue skate
VENUE: Plymouth **DATE:** 16/3/24

Steve Larmer
FISH: 11lb 15oz bull huss
BAIT: Whole squid
VENUE: Halfmoon Bay, Heysham

Ed Povey, Gloucestershire
FISH: 10lb 13oz blonde ray
BAIT: Joey mackerel
VENUE: Barry, South Wales
DATE: 21/4/24

Keri Theophilus, Plymouth
FISH: 23lb 12oz thornback ray
BAIT: Prawn head wrapped with squid
VENUE: Aboard Lorna Doone out of Watchet
DATE: 25/4/24

Gareth Dixon
FISH: 23lb spurdog
VENUE: Chichester
BAIT: Herring
DATE: 3/3/24

Mick Lane, Chelmsford
FISH: 7lb 7oz bass **BAIT:** Ragworm
VENUE: Out of Essex Marina **DATE:** 22/4/24

Jamie Tipton
FISH:15lb 13oz blonde ray **BAIT:** Bluey and squid
VENUE: South Wales

Jason Lewis, Penygraig
FISH: 14lb bull huss **VENUE:** Anchorman out of Penarth **DATE:** 8/5/24

YOUR FISHING CATCHES

Rob Young, Penygraig
FISH: 15lb bull huss **VENUE:** Anchorman out of Penarth **DATE:** 8/5/24

Ricky Baker, North Wales
FISH: 10lb 2oz bull huss
BAIT: Bluey and squid wrap
VENUE: Rock mark in Anglesey

Steve Radford, Derbyshire
FISH: 14lb pollock
VENUE: Wrecking off Brixham aboard Spot-On
LURE: Sidewinder Skerries Bluey
DATE: 23/4/24

Mike Sutton
FISH: 12lb 8oz bass **LURE:** Sidewinder 6in Candy
VENUE: Wreck 13 miles out of Plymouth

Andy Sheilds, West Sussex
FISH: 12lb pollock
LURE: 6in soft plastic
VENUE: Chloe-Jo charters out of Dover
DATE: 1/5/24

Bing
FISH: 4lb black bream
VENUE: Aboard Trident out of Mudeford
DATE: 24/4/24

Finn O'Brien, Jersey
FISH: 33lb 11oz stingray **BAIT:** Worm
VENUE: Jersey **DATE:** 30/4/24

Darren Cobbs & Mike Sutton
FISH: 12lb 1oz and 11lb 6oz pollock
LURES: Sidewinder 6in Pinks

David Wilkinson
FISH: 15 lb 7oz blonde ray **BAIT:** Squid and Bluey wrap **VENUE:** Holderness coast
DATE: 5/5/24

Bruce Hamilton
FISH: 216lb skate **BAIT:** Mackerel
VENUE: Moray Firth **DATE:** 27/04/24

Joe Blackman
FISH: 14lb smoothhound
BAIT: Velvet swimmer peeler
VENUE: Eastbourne
DATE: 28/04/24

HOW TO ENTER

Email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of FISH, weight of FISH, where caught, DATE caught, BAIT/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the FISH was retained or returned.

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **SHORE LURE OPTION: Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80**
- **BOAT: Classic CLX, RRP: £60 Cortez Boat Rod, RRP: £90**
- **SHORE BAIT OPTION: DSA reel RRP: £60, Wave Power surf rod, RRP: £80**

YOUR TARGETS...

Catch a FISH on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition. To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coal fish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

THE RULES...

- **Only catches since May 2024 are eligible.**
- **We must see a picture of the fish.**
- **We may refuse an entry.**
- **Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk**
- **Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).**
- **No correspondence will be entered into.**

MONTHLY WINNERS:
SHORE: Finn O'Brien, Jersey
BOAT: Gareth Dixon, Chichester

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers

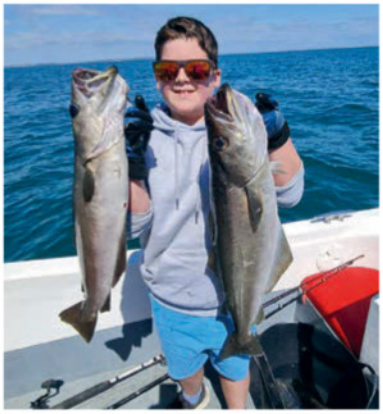
In association with

FISHING MEGA STORE .COM™

▲ **Albie Bosanko** fished with his grandad and caught his second ever bass, and first of this season, from Walney beach using fresh black lugworm.

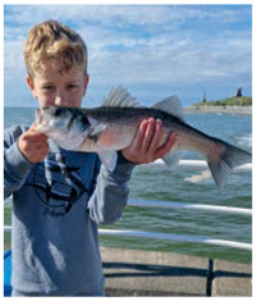
▲ Eleven-year-old **Layton Juleff** from Padstow in Cornwall with his personal best bass. He's the junior Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers shore and boat champion.

▲ Young **Elliot Mayes** from Birkenhead caught this fine specimen on his first smoothhound session of the year at New Brighton on the Wirral.



▲ **Sam Watson** proudly showing off his 10lb lure-caught pollock from his family's boat Happy Hooker. Sam was fishing from a local rock mark in Falmouth Bay with a slow jig.

▲ **Archie Hackett**, age 7, from Jersey caught this 41cm bass caught on Jersey's north coast using a 15g Westin Sandy Andy. It's his first lure-caught bass from the shore.



▲ Ten-year-old **Charlie Button** from Aberystwyth caught this 49cm bass on float fished live prawn.

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS

Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

TENRYU®
SUPER MIX 270 EVO

A true classic from the prestigious Japanese brand Tenryu, the Super Mix 270 is one of the most popular rods for anglers who fish from the shore. Its length and progressive action make it possible to cast lures to phenomenal distances as well as landing big fish very easily. This has created a reputation for the rod with many anglers who use it for its casting distance, progressive action for playing fish and its versatility with a multitude of different lures and fishing techniques. The combination of distance and its weight range allows the angler to switch from light to heavy lures, be them surface, diving, metal or soft. It is the ideal tool for shore anglers who need to switch lures to suit the situation, all with one rod.

- Length : **2,7 m (9 ft)**
- Tip Length : **1,56 m (5 ft 1 in)**
- Casting Weight : **10-60 g**
- Line Rating : **10-25 lb**
- Rod Weight : **205 g**

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France

Words and photography by TIM MACPHERSON

UNLUCKY GIT

Following his article about preparing your boat for the new season Tim Macpherson recounts an embarrassing, and potentially disastrous, first fishing trip of the season – highlighting once again why preparation is so important

I have a boat, "Lucky Git" (don't ask!), which I share with two other anglers, including Jim Whippy, an angler like me with well over 25 years' experience in boat angling. We hadn't had a chance to go out for months and were careful over the winter to keep a check on the boat, keeping it clean and tidy with regular check-ups so we'd be ready in case, at short notice, we decided to go out when the weather improved. We've also serviced the engine regularly and because it's kept in a marina the boat is less exposed to the elements.

When the weather did improve in early May we decided to get out and have a go for some bass as reports had been coming in of aggregations shoaling up on the Beachy Head ledge. We also planned to see if there were any decent plaice showing in some of our regular marks.

The day before the trip I went to refuel the tanks, check the electrics, update the chart software and make sure the engine was running – plus check anything else we'd need to do. In the course of these checks it was apparent that the batteries needed a re-charge – or at least that was my assumption based on the fact that the engine wouldn't start.

I took the main battery away for an overnight recharge; although it was clear the batteries had been okay – the auto bilge pump had kept the boat clear of water – the voltage needed for that is much less than the engine requires on start-up.

The next day, with the batteries recharged and the engine starting we decided that all was fine and that we could go fishing. The engine should re-charge the battery further once it was going. Off we went on a lovely morning to have a bash at the bass.

We met a number of other boats in the lock and once out of the marina we could see many other boats had the same idea, giving us the confidence that in the event things went wrong we'd be able to get help.

Just as a precaution I kept the engine running in the lock and, as we would spend the day drifting, I'd planned to do the same while we were fishing – just in case. Things started well as we filled up the live bait tank and started a drift over a well-known local bass mark – all the while keeping the engine ticking over. At this time there were still a lot of other boats collecting live bait including a couple of professional bass boats.

In time they went off to Beachy Head, which we decided not to do. As a matter of course on a first trip off the season we do tend to stay inshore; if the boat hasn't been used for a while if there are any issues that arise – which in past years they haven't – we're not too far from base.

The water was pretty coloured with May rot showing on the fishfinder, which may have contributed to spending a couple of fruitless hours trying to locate some bass. The other boats were now all out deep or on Beachy Head Ledge.

ADRIFT

It became obvious that there weren't any feeding bass on our mark so we decided to head to an inshore mark to try for plaice. This is where it all went wrong. We started a drift and the engine was switched off. After a while, and no bites, the plan was to try for another drift. The engine wouldn't start – completely dead – and we noticed the fishfinder was also off, as was the radio. Everything was dead.

After trying various things: switching the primary battery, testing the dead-man and checking the wiring (it was apparently) we sat down and called one of the other boats we knew were out there to see if they would give us a tow when they came in.

Unfortunately, their phone signal wasn't good and we were left with no option but to call the coastguard, let them know we were "adrift without power", and ask for help. It was very fortunate that we weren't further out and with no phone signal!

We were drifting with the tide at about one knot about a couple of miles off Eastbourne. I checked my Navionics app and worked out that if we continued drifting on this course we'd end up beached under Hollywell on the western end of Eastbourne just short of the cliffs. Eventually, though, the tide would turn and we'd end up drifting back up the Channel.

RESCUE

The RNLI were brilliant – very quick to muster a crew and get to us – but we both felt very foolish, especially as very experienced boaters. They towed us into the marina and the pilot boat took us to our mooring. It was quite humiliating being towed into the lock and, of course, the lifeboat attracted a lot of attention.

On further inspection on our pontoon the next day, including further battery re-charging, I did manage to start the engine, so that wasn't the problem. But while testing the engine would start it became clear that there was an electrical issue traced to the isolator switch. We had some loose or corroded wiring inside the switch. ■

LESSONS LEARNED

- Make sure you take a spare radio (which I normally do but left accidentally behind this time). This would have allowed us to contact the other boats out there, but more importantly if we'd been out of phone signal we'd have been in much more trouble.
- Take a spare battery or emergency jump device /power pack.
- Check the wiring has proper integrity on a regular basis – at least every year, if not more often.
- Install a volt meter in the console.
- Check who else is going out on the same day you are going and that you have both their phone numbers and a channel to contact them on.
- If there is some kind of issue with the engine or electrics, don't risk it. Check it and make sure all is good. If in doubt, don't go out!

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11ft - 30-90g	£249.99	£184.99
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The Ultegra Surf is designed especially for the serious ultra long range surf angler or tournament specialist. Combining some of SHIMANO'S most advanced carbon technologies with premium fittings, options of this stunning lightweight, well balanced range include both hybrid and tubular configurations to suit personal preference.

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Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£134.99	£99
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft 6in (4.5m	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£144.99	£99
Aerlex Surf Rod 13ft (4.05m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£129.99	£99
Aerlex Surf Rod 14ft (4.25m)	Hybrid	3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£144.99	£99
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Ultegra XR Surf 14ft	250g	Hybrid Low Rider	3 Piece	£359.99
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Ultegra XR Surf 14ft 9in	250g	Tubular Low Rider	3 Piece	£379.99
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- Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings
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- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring

			RRP	NOW
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13ft 6in	Multiplier	100-200g	£190	£139.99
14ft 2in	Multiplier	100-200g	£190	£139.99
12ft 6in	Fixed Spool	100-200g	£180	£134.99
13ft 6in	Fixed Spool	100-200g	£190	£139.99

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14ft	4-8oz	3 Piece	£149.99	£129.99
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1 PIECE

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1.65m50lb	SOLD OUT	
1.65m80lb	SOLD OUT	

2 PIECES

TIAGRA - Hyper Stand-Up Boat Rods
• High pressure carbon blanks • AFTO guides
• Pacific Bay Reelseat

	RRP	NOW
1.75m30lb	£414.99	£269
1.73m50lb Bent Butt	£434.99	£299
1.6m 80lb Bent Butt	£534.99	£399

1 PIECE

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Charter Special
TR LD Special
1000/2000
SOLD OUT

TLD
LEVER DRAG
Single & 2 Speed - 7 Models
from £129.99

TORIUM A HG
5 Models
from £179.99

TEKOTA A
6 Models
from £189.99

TYRNOS
6 Models
from £199.99

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

TIAGRA XTR-A STAND-UP TROLLING

	RRP	NOW
5' 5" - 80lb	£329.99	SOLD OUT

TIAGRA HYPER STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
1.75m - 30lb	£414.99	£269
1.73m - 50lb Bent Butt	£434.99	£299
1.6m - 80lb Bent Butt	£534.99	£399

TIAGRA ULTRA GAME STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
5'4" - 50lb	£924.99	£549
5'4" - 80lb	£934.99	£599

TIAGRA LTD EDITION ULTRA A STAND-UP

	RRP	NOW
5'5" - 30lb - 50lb	£695	£349
5'5" - 50lb - 80lb	SOLD OUT	

SHIMANO BOAT REELS

SpeedMaster LD II
6 Models
from £189.99

TALICA
5 Models
from £299.99

OCEA JIGGER
Silver - 2 Models
from £369.99

OCEA JIGGER F CUSTOM
2 Models
from £439.99

TIAGRA
4 Models
from £549.99

Okuma CAVALLA REELS

INSPIRED FISHING

CAVALLA CAV-5NS RH
Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £199

CAVALLA CAV-5S RH
Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £209

CAVALLA CAV-5II RH
2 Speed Lever Drag Reel - £225

CAVALLA CAV-5NII RH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £210

CAVALLA CAV-12II RH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £299

LEFT HAND WIND
CAVALLA CAV-5NIILX LH
Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £249

Okuma MAKAIRA BIG GAME REELS

INSPIRED FISHING
BIG GAME REELS

MAKAIRA MK-30 II
Big Game Reel
£499

MAKAIRA MK-50 II
Big Game Reel
£559

MAKAIRA MK-50W II
Big Game Reel
£569

MAKAIRA MK-80 II
Big Game Reel
£895

FLADEN

ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The lightest suit on the market. Has the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection as the other Fladen Rescue Systems

RRP £189.99
£159.99

SCANDIA TWO PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

The Bib and Brace has a built in buoyancy, and when worn with the jacket exceeds the current Flotation Suit regulation requirements.

The new Bib & Brace trousers becomes a certified flotation suit only when worn with the Flotation Jacket

	RRP	NOW
Flotation Jacket	£137.99	£119.99
Flotation Bib & Brace	£119.99	£89.99

FLADEN

RESCUE SYSTEM
ONE PIECE FLOTATION SUIT

An affordable flotation suit that does not compromise on safety. With the same extreme buoyancy and thermal protection that you expect from all Fladen Rescue System Suits. An Updated model of Fladen's popular 845 suit, the 845XY features the same functions and quality that you're used to, but with a modern touch.

RRP £189.99 £159.99

E+OE Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability

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Okuma MAKAIRA

INSPIRED FISHING

SPINNING REELS

Inspired by strength. Constructed from the finest, strongest materials available these are tough and durable spinning reels, especially for big gamen fish.

Makaira MK-10000L	Makaira MK-20000LS	Makaira MK-30000LS
Spinning Reel - Left Hand	Spinning Reel - Left Hand	Spinning Reel - Left Hand
£599	£599	£649

Okuma TESORO

INSPIRED FISHING — SPINNING REELS — NEW

"The number one sales driver is the IPX-7 waterproof ruting covering the body and the spool." Angling International

With hydro blocking technology for saltwater environments. 100% waterproof, strong, light weight aluminum body, specially reinforced high strength brass gears and a high output carbonite drag with Cal's drag grease on a full Dual Force Drag- (DFD) system, for tackling big game fish such as tuna and swordfish.

	RRP	NOW
8000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
10000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
14000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99	£299.99
18000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£319.99
20000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99	£319.99

Oversized, precision machine cut alloy main gear

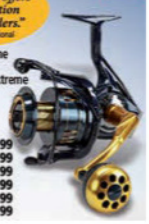
Okuma SALINA

INSPIRED FISHING — SPINNING REELS — NEW

"This new breed of reels offers another option for elite anglers." Angling International

One of the best saltwater fishing reels on the market. Features Okuma's rigid Litecast construction, Dual Force Drag System for extreme stopping powe, proprietary High Density Gearing with corrosion resistant coating, high-speed gear ratio and customized aluminum handle.

	RRP	NOW
8000 Spinning	£195.99	£159.99
10000 Spinning	£198.99	£159.99
14000 Spinning	£198.99	£164.99
4000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£174.99
5000H Spin High-Speed	£183.99	£179.99
6000H Spin High-Speed	£187.99	£179.99



Vanquish FC

MGL SERIES

SHIMANO — Beyond Lightness

Pinnacle of lightweight engineering for finesse anglers seeking the ultimate in performance.

Equipped with the lightest Magnumlite Rotor. Perfect balance, lightness and low inertia rotation, produces exceptional performance and awareness.

1000, 2000, 2500, 3000, 4000, 5000

11 Models from **£399.99**

Daiwa 22 EXIST

Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!

NEW

The future of Daiwa Spinning Reels is AIRDRIVE DESIGN. By reducing the weight of rotor, spool & bail assembly, a lighter rotation is achieved. The effortless rotation allows the angler to feel the true joy of trouble free function. This new chapter starts with 22 EXIST.

22 Exist PC LT 2500D G	22 Exist LT 4000D G
22 Exist LT 2000D-P G	22 Exist LT 5000D-C G
22 Exist LT 3000D G	

RRP £850-£900 - 5 Models Available

from **£699**

Daiwa BASS LURE RODS

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

Sandstorm Bass Spinning Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Fixed Spool DPS Reel Seat
- Seaguide Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle

		RRP	NOW
11ft 6in	28-84g	£135	£110

SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods
- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X45 Technology

		RRP	NOW
8ft	10-35g	£185	£139
8ft 6in	10-35g	£190	£145
9ft	10-35g	£195	£149

SALTIST - Spinning Rods

		RRP	NOW
10ft	14-60g	£170	£149
11ft 6in	28-84g	£170	£149

Whisker Spin - Bass Spinning Rods

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofil or braid

		RRP	NOW
8ft	10-40g		SOLD OUT
9ft	15-50g		SOLD OUT
10ft	20-60g		SOLD OUT

SHIMANO LURE RODS

S.T.C TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

A travel rod with a transport length of just 58cm, this is a rod you can pack in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

			RRP	NOW
9ft	15-40g	5 Piece	£134.99	£99
9ft	20-60g	5 Piece	£149.99	£119
10ft	20-60g	5 Piece	£139.99	£110
2.4/2.7m	3-14g	6 Piece Multi Length	£139.99	£110
2.4/2.7m	15-40g	6 Piece Multi Length	£144.99	£115
2.7/3m	20-60g	6 Piece Multi Length	£159.99	£129

LUNAMIS BASS RODS

8ft 6in	6-25g, 7-35g	2 Piece	£329.99
9ft	5-21g, 6-25g	2 Piece	£329.99
9ft 6in	7-35g, 10-45g	2 Piece	£349.99

BASSTERRA BASS RODS

7ft 2in LRF	1-11g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT
8ft LRF	3-15g	2 Piece	SOLD OUT
8ft	6-28g	2 Piece	£59.99
9ft	7-30g, 12-38g	2 Piece	£69.99
9ft 6in	15-60g	2 Piece	£69.99

Daiwa SALTWATER LURE REELS

BG	BG MAGSEALED	20 BG MQ	20 SALTIGA (G)	22 EXIST
Fixed Spool Reels	Spinning Reels	Fixed Spool Reels	Fixed Spool Reels	*Is this the BEST spinning reel ever made!*
7 Models	7 Models	10 Models	9 Models	• 5 Models
from **£119**	from **£149**	from **£169**	from **£899**	RRP £850-£900 from **£699**

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

MIRAVEL	STRADIC FM	20 STRADIC SW
10 MODELS	16 MODELS	NEW 10 MODELS
from **£109.99**	from **£189.99**	4000-14000 from **£199.99**

SPHEROS SW	SPHEROS SW-A	ULTEGRA FC	SARAGOSA SW-A
3 MODELS	8 MODELS	10 MODELS	8 MODELS
from **£99.99**	from **£164.99**	from **£119.99**	from **£199.99**

Daiwa KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb"

Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) **Boat Rod**

6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb

7', 7'6" or 8'

RRP £199 **£169.99**

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel

7 Models - RRP £195-£245 from **£139**

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

VANFORD	VANQUISH	STELLA FK
13 MODELS	11 MODELS	14 MODELS
from **£179.99**	from **£399.99**	from **£539.99**

TWIN POWER FD	TWIN POWER XD	TWIN POWER SW-C	STELLA SW-C
11 MODELS	6 MODELS	11 MODELS	14 MODELS
from **£299**	from **£349**	from **£399.99**	from **£729.99**

DOUGLAS SKY G

S6904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

Yellowstone Angler's WINNER of BEST 9ft weight 6 rod

BEST OVERALL ROD SWT. & IWT. SHOOTOUT

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 6
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 93gram

9ft: #6 Saltwater **£849.99**

DOUGLAS SKY G

S8904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy, and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecoil stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA flor grade cork, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and burled blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

8wt Shootout done by FIELD & STREAM **WINNER** DOUGLAS SKY G 8904 9ft #8

- Length: 9'0ft
- Line Weight: 8
- Action: Fast
- Sections: 4
- Weight: 102gram
- Saltwater friendly hard wear

9ft: #8 Saltwater **£849.99**

Also available in #7 #9 #10

G.Loomis SALTWATER FLY

UK APPOINTED DEALER

ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

ASQ 890	9ft	#7 #8	4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1090	9ft	#9 #10	4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1290	9ft	#11 #12	4 Piece	£999.99

NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

NRX+ S 790 / 890 / 990	9ft	#7 #8 #9	4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 1090	9ft	#10	4 Piece	£849.99
NRX+ S 1290	9ft	#12	4 Piece	£899.99
NRX+ 10810-2	8ft 10"	#10	2 Piece	£749.99
NRX+ 12810-2	8ft 10"	#12	2 Piece	£749.99

G.Loomis SALTWATER FLY RODS

UK APPOINTED DEALER — MULTI TAPER

IMX-PRO S V2 SALTWATER FLY RODS

Rolled for pumped performance in salty environments, IMX-PRO V2S actions are tuned for utility in three specific areas: improved tracking in the wind, lifting generous lengths of line before a re-cast, and fish fighting control. G.Loomis engineers designed these versatile actions with gobs of power through the bottom half of the rod but, most uniquely, developed a slightly tighter tip to minimize tailing loops and improve tracking and line pick-up. A proprietary blend of technologies - Conduit Core and GL7 resin system - provides surplus strength and impact resistance without the extra weight, creating a blank that allows anglers to stay frosty when a "send" becomes a "bend."

9ft	#6	4 Piece	£499.99		
9ft	#7	4 Piece	£499.99	9ft #10	4 Piece £499.99
9ft	#8	4 Piece	£499.99	9ft #11	4 Piece £499.99
9ft	#9	4 Piece	£499.99	9ft #12	4 Piece £499.99

Snowbee SALTWATER RODS & REELS

SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PCE

With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike fly fishing, the "Saltwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range.

RRP £259 **£139**

PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER

The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast.

9ft #7 - 4 Piece

RRP £559 **£399**

Also available in #8 & #10

XS FLY REELS

The best choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacks, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock.

#7/9 #9/11 - **from £199**

SPECTRE FLY REELS

Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminium reels for a better rod/reel balance

#9/10 #10/11

SOLD OUT

Scott Sector SALTWATER FLY RODS

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award-winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

IFTD WINNER BEST SALTWATER ROD

8ft 4in	#10 #13 #15	3 Piece	
8ft 4in	#6 #8	4 Piece	
8ft 10in	#7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	2 Piece	
9ft	#6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	4 Piece	

£999

Sector 'NZ SPECIAL'

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for chucking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and crammed conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A tireless allrounder!

9ft #6 4 Piece **£999**

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SAVAGE GEAR — NEW BAITCASTING REELS FOR 2024

SG6
Pure power in a compact package.
SG6 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£119.99**
SG6 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£119.99**
SG6 250 BC RH - 8.8:1....**£129.99**
SG6 300 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
SG6 300 BC RH - 5.6:1....**£149.99**
SG6 300 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£149.99**

SG8
Power, style, performance and a - the SG8 series of baitcasting reels has it all.
SG8 250 BC LH - 6.6:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£154.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 5.6:1....**£199.99**
SG8 250 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£199.99**

SG10
Representing the very best of Savage Gear technology and innovation, and loaded with smart ideas to help you achieve your angling goals.
SG10 250 BC LH - 8.8:1....**£199.99**
SG10 250 BC LH - 7.3:1....**£239.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — SALTWATER LURE REELS

SG5S6
CLEARANCE
Strong, lightweight aluminium body and a carbon reinforced composite rotor, designed to deliver top performance. Features 6+1 sealed steel ball bearings, high- performance carbon drag system and our proprietary Dura Grease - all of which combine to help make the reel saltwater resistant.
8 Models available - 4000, 5000, 6000, 8000, 10000, 14000, 14000H, 18000
RRP £154.99-£189.99 **NOW £79**

SG5S8
CLEARANCE
A reel with a unique coating that can easily withstood 500 hours of being sprayed with saltwater in testing. This SG5S8 with SW500 coating, is saltwater resistant. Features sealed 8+1 steel ball bearings, sealed drag system, lightweight and strong aluminium body and Carbon Reinforced Composite rotor.
8 Models available - 4000, 5000, 6000, 8000, 10000, 14000, 14000H, 18000
RRP £169.99-£224.99 **NOW £99**

SAVAGE GEAR — LURE BOXES AND WALLETS SELECTION NEW

Rollup Pouch **£14.99**
Rig & Lure Flip Wallet **£15.99**
Zipper Wallet 1 **£16.99**
Lurebox 2A 16.1x9.1x3.1cm - **£5.99**
Flip Wallet Rig & Lure Bags - 8 Pack - **£7.99**
Zipper Wallet 2 **£15.99**
Lure Boxes - 4 Sizes **from £2.99**
Lurebox 3A 18.6x10.0x3.4cm - **£6.99**

2 SIDED WASHABLE LUREBOXES
Keep your hard lures organised with these strong, durable, two-sided washable lure boxes. Featuring sturdy, smooth hinges & tight-fit lids. Drainage holes help keep the inside dry & the double- sided design is ideal for large hard lures with treble hooks.
Recommended by *Henry Gilbey*
Short 20.5x17x4.8cm....**£8.99**
Long 20.5x17x4.8cm....**£9.99**
Large 29.5x20.5x6.2cm..**£15.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — LURE FISHING NETS

Bottle and Net Clip
Strong ABS quick clip. L: 14.5cm
W: 20g - **£4.99**

Pro Finezze Floating Landing Nets
The ideal Bass net for fishing off the rocks or on the beach - designed for lure fishing and fish care - great for Catch and Release.

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£24.99	**£22.99**
Large	£31.99	**£28.99**

Full Frame Net 120-200cm
Strong landing net, for landing big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
XL	£94.99	**£79.99**

Pro Folding Telescopic Net
Extra large rubber mesh net bag, great for lure fishing & fish care

	RRP	NOW
L	£79.99	**£69.99**
XL	£89.99	**£79.99**

Pro Foldable Landing Net
Strong, lightweight folding net with rubber mesh bag

	RRP	NOW
L	£50.99	**£44.99**
XL	£54.99	**£49.99**

Full Frame Landing Net
Super strong landing net, designed to land big predator fish.

	RRP	NOW
L	£64.99	**£59.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — LURE BAGS FOR 2024

Specialist Rucksavck 23L
RRP £84.99 **£74.99**

Specialist Lure Bags

	RRP	NOW
M	£79.99	**£69.99**
L	£89.99	**£79.99**

Specialist Sling Bag 8L
RRP £44.99 **£39.99**

Specialist Shoulder Lure Bag - 16L
RRP £59.99 **£54.99**

Specialist Soft Lure Bag 10L
RRP £55.99 **£49.99**

System Box Bag

	RRP	NOW
Small	£46.99	**£41.99**
Medium	£64.99	**£59.99**
Large	£84.99	**£74.99**
X Large	£99.99	**£84.99**

System Caryall

	RRP	NOW
Medium	£49.99	**£44.99**
Large	£54.99	**£49.99**
X Large	£64.99	**£59.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — SANDEEL V2 / SANDEEL PENCIL SW

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.
Richard Taylor, boss of Svensden

SANDEEL V2
SINKING LURES
Designed by Henry Gilby

12cm	22g 2+1	**£8.99**
14cm	33g 2+1	**£8.99**
15.5cm	46g 2+1	**£8.99**
17.5cm	65g 2+1	**£8.99**
11.5cm	22g 2+1 Weedless	**£7.99**
13cm	31g 2+1 Weedless	**£8.99**

6 Colour Options

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics.
Read his blog on our website

SANDEEL PENCIL SW
SINKING LURES
Shallow Water version

9cm	13g	**£7.99**
12.5cm	19g	**£8.99**
15cm	30g	**£10.99**

5 Colour Options

8 Colour Options

SANDEEL PENCIL
SINKING LURES
Supplied with both a single and a treble hook.

9cm	13g	**£6.99**
12.5cm	19g	**£9.99**

SAVAGE GEAR — BASS LURES

See the Henry Gilby video on how to use them - it's on out site

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

SUPERB — **SAVAGE GEAR SEEKER ISP** — N°1 SELLER
Black Pearl | Fluo/green/yellow | Fluo/red/black
Green Silver | White Pearl
12g / 16g / 23g / 28g
6.8cm / 8.7cm / 9.8cm,
10cm - **Only £4.89**

Gravity Stick Mini Kit
12cm 13g - 7 Colours - **£8.99**
7 Colours

Surf Seeker Bass Lure
10cm 30g Sinking
RRP £8.49 **£5.49**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure
10.5cm 35g Sinking
RRP £8.99 **£5.99**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure
10cm 30g
RRP £9.49 **£6.25**

Bullet Mullet Floating Lures
10cm - 17.3g....**£8.99**
11cm - 23.5g....**£9.99**

ACCESSORIES
Rattle & Spike Kit 1.9g 6+6pce - RRP £9.49 **£7.99**
#6/0 Weedless Hooks 6pce - RRP £7.49 **£5.99**
3g - 4pce - RRP £8.49 **£6.99**

WESTIN — W3 SEABASS 2nd GENERATION

NEW FOR 2023

The W3 SeaBass 2nd is a super-fast and long-casting powerhouse that meets the demands of the modern sea bass angler. These rods are packed with power, and due to the premium Torayca® carbon fibers, you still get a true lightweight feeling when fishing, fish, and detecting even the mostcautious bites. Use it from the bank or boat, the W3 SeaBass 2nd will get the job done no matter the situation.

Reel Seat: VSS
D-Ring Hook Keeper
Guides: LTS ring guides
Handle: Premium EVA handle
Reinforced with 1k woven carbon
Blank: Torayca® High Performance Carbon blank

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

W3 Seabass 2nd generation 2 section with cloth bag

			RRP	NOW
8ft 4in	(250cm)	12.42g	£149	**£129.99**
9ft 1in	(273cm)	12.42g	£159	**£139.99**
10ft	(300cm)	12.42g	£169	**£149.99**

WESTIN — SEABASS ACCESSORIES

NEW FOR 2023

W6 8 Braided Line 135m - from **£24.99**
W10 13 Coastal Braided Line - 150m - **£46.99**
W3 Street Sling Medium - **£29.99**
W3 Leg Bag Medium - **£29.99**
W6 Roll-Top Backpack 25L - **£69.99**
W6 Roll-Top Backpack 40L - **£79.99**
W6 Dry Pouch 23x13cm - **£10.99**
W3 CR Floating Landing Nets from **£24.99**
W3 CR Adjustable Landing Net from **£39.99**
W3 Quick Bag Small - **£44.99**
W3 Lure Loader Small - **£59.99**
W6 Wading Backpack **£124.99**
W6 Boat Lurebag Large - **£134.99**
W3 Street Bag Pro Medium - **£54.99**
W3 Lure Loader Large - **£59.99**
W6 Roll-Top Duffelbag Large - **£109.99**
W6 Duffel Bag X Large - **£149.99**
Forceps, Scissors, Pliers, Sheaths etc **£8.99-£29.95**

FIIISH LEURRES

Candy Shrimp
MUD DIGGER
CRAZY
CRAZY
POWER TAIL

Choice of over 100 Fiiish Lures on our website

BLACK EEL NEW for 2020
Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g leaded head

BLACK MINNOW
Khaki, Blue and Gold / Blue 140 and 120 with leaded heads of 40g and 25g

see the 4 VIDEOS on our website

We also stock
Candy Shrimp
Crazy Paddle Tail
Crazy Sand Eel
Mud Digger
Accessories

RAPALA — BASS LURES

See the videos on our website

X-Rap Long Cast Shallow Lure 9cm - 36g - **£12.99**
Maxrap Walk N Roll Lure 10cm - 13g - **£12.99**
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Jointed Lure - 9cm **£9.99**
Jointed Lure - 11cm **£9.99**
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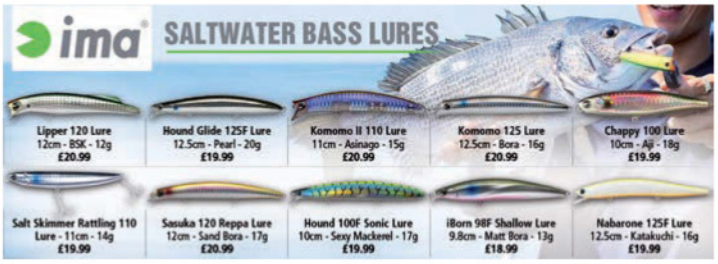
Silver Lure - 13cm **£13.99**

ima — SALTWATER BASS LURES



Lipper 120 Lure 12cm - BSK - 12g **£20.99**
Hound Glide 125F Lure 12.5cm - Pearl - 20g **£19.99**
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	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£89.99	**£69.99**	9ft 7-35g	£94.99	**£74.99**
8ft 3in 10-35g	£89.99	**£69.99**	9ft 10-40g	£99.99	**£79.99**
8ft 3in 20-60g	£89.99	**£69.99**	9ft 15-50g	£99.99	**£79.99**

SG5S4 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS - 2 PIECE

	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
9ft 7-25g	£142.99	**£99.99**	9ft 6in 7-35g	£152.99	**£109.99**
9ft 2in 8-44g	£147.99	**£104.99**	9ft 6in 10-45g	£152.99	**£109.99**

SG5S6 ALL-ROUND RODS - 2 PIECE

	RRP	NOW		RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£265.99	**£199.99**	9ft 7-35g	£275.99	**£199.99**
8ft 3in 12-42g	£265.99	**£199.99**	9ft 10-50g	£285.99	**£199.99**
8ft 3in 20-60g	£289.99	**£199.99**	9ft 12-42g	£309.99	**£199.99**

SG5S5 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS

		RRP	NOW
8ft 6in	9-35g 2 Pce..	£147.99	**£124.99**
9ft	12-46g 9-35g 2 Pce from	£152.99	**£129.99**
9ft 2in	9-42g 2 Pce..	£152.99	**£129.99**
9ft 6in	9-35g 12-46g 2 Pce from	£152.99	**£129.99**

10ft 11-46g 18-56g 2 Pce from £173.99 **£159.99**
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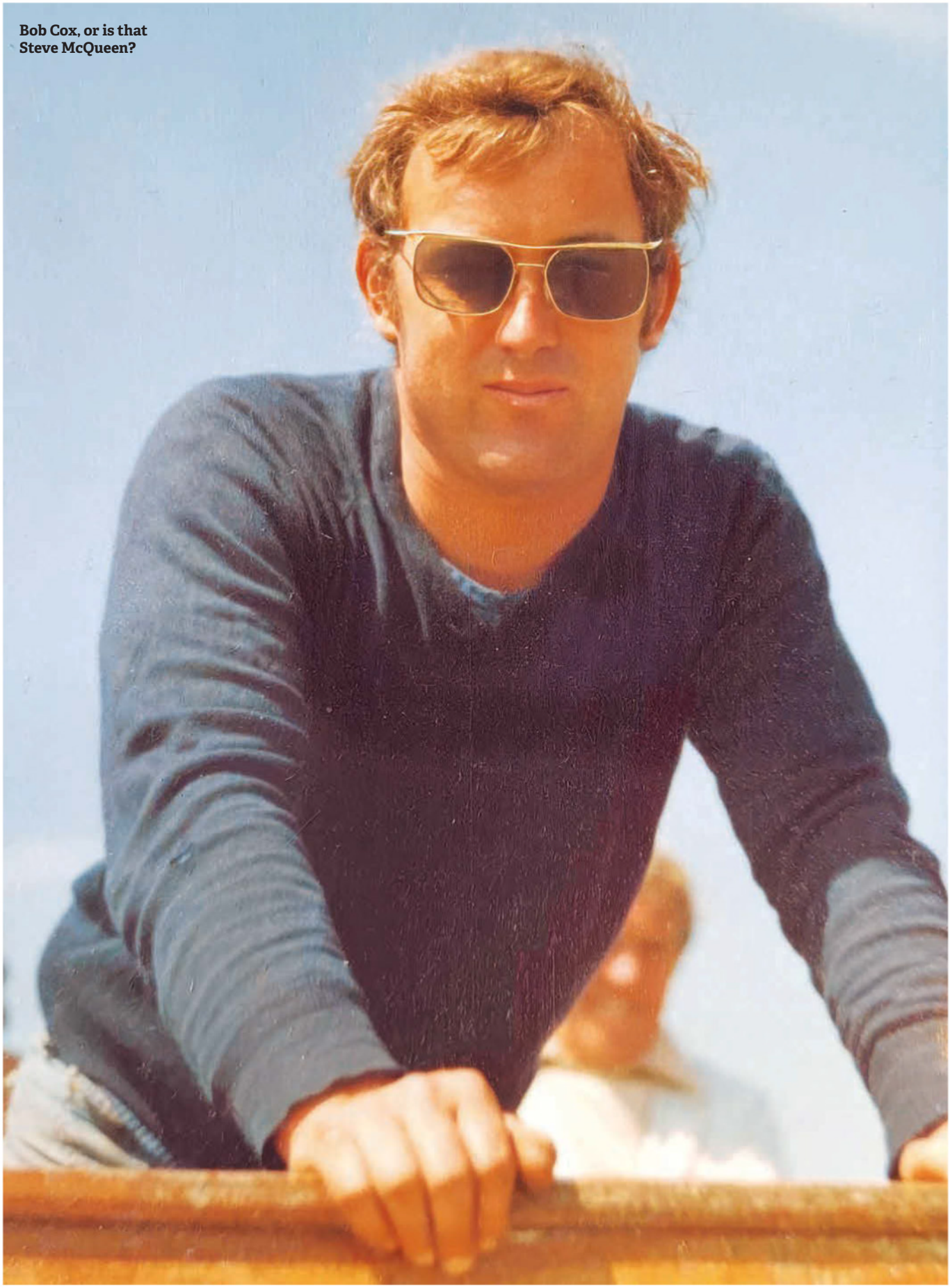
Words and photography by SAM COX



Bob Cox, or is that Steve McQueen?

BORN TO BOAT CAST

Many Sea Angler readers will have been lucky enough to have fished with Bob Cox when he and fellow pioneering skippers invented what became known as uptiding. His son, Sam, recalls what it was like to grow up in the heyday of charter fishing aboard his dad's boat in the 1970s and 1980s

On the 15th May 1973 my father and John Rawle set off for an evening's bass fishing at the mouth of the river Crouch in Essex. On his way out of the door he gave my mum the phone number of the nearest farm; she was nine months pregnant. That evening dad caught a 7lb 6oz bass; the next day I was born weighing 7lb 8oz, or was it 7lb 6oz? He can't remember.

Almost a year to the day before I was born a young journalist stumbled across a method of angling that would revolutionise sea fishing here in the UK. This journalist was my father, Bob Cox, an enthusiastic photographer and keen angler.

On the evening of 2nd May 1972, he was on board Arthur Wietzle's charter boat 'Providence' based at Bradwell Marina in Essex. Dad was there to photograph and document the night's events for an article in the now long-gone Angling magazine. Along with his camera he took a light bass rod and perched himself on the bow of the boat so as not to get in the way of Arthur's paying punters at the back. Little did he know that this would lead to the development of a method that would see some truly amazing catches of bass, cod, thornback rays, smoothhounds, stingrays and tope.

In the few years that led up to this dad and a hand full of friends regularly fished the beaches and creaks of Essex for smoothhounds and bass. That evening aboard Providence he employed the methods he had used for his shore fishing. He was beach casting from a boat using a standard running ledger with a 3–5oz Breakaway cast out and across the tide. At the end of the session he had caught nine thornback rays and two decent bass. The paying lads who were all just dropping over the side had only caught two thornbacks between them. Dad fished a few times a month from Arthur's boat and it soon became apparent that what he was doing out fished the conventional over the side method.

By the winter of 1972 one of dad's angling friends, John Rawle, had been given a boat to

Arthur Weitzle, skipper of the first boatcasting boat Providence, tails a smoothhound

skipper, a 33ft Aqua Star called the Aquamanda. This gave them a chance to really develop the method and to try and understand why it worked so well. Other anglers had cast from a boat before, but not with the results that my father had achieved and, more importantly, John and my dad refined the method and came up with the answers to why it worked so well. It was thought by some to be a method only for shallow water, and this does hold some weight: uptiding works well up to depths of around 90ft, beyond that it becomes difficult and unnecessary.

Cygnus M in the water off the Essex coast in the 1970s

THE 1970s AND CYGNUS M

By 1975 my dad had been given a charter boat to run, 'Cygnus M', owned by the once well-known Geoffrey Bucknell. Both John's and my dad's boats were now berthed at Bradwell Marina. They could now cover all of the Thames Estuary. Some of the catches they made back then will seem unbelievable by today's standards. An afternoon in May saw 66 thornbacks landed and in June 1976, 180 bass were caught in just two hours. By the end of June that year they had collectively landed 1,500 bass. Large stingrays over 50lb were caught and catches of over 1000lb of cod in just one day were recorded.

By the late 1970s both John and my dad both had their own new steel boats. Johns was the 'Vicky Emma' and dad's was 'Gemini Girl'. These two boats would go on to account for some remarkable catches. Not only were these two skippers trendsetters by the fact that they were developing uptiding, they were probably the first skippers to set bag limits on their boats when it came to bass. Although these pictures look excessive by today's standards they were actually only part of that day's catch.

I remember one party of anglers that had not experienced uptiding and were used to pirking over deep water wrecks. My dad and his crewman, Dick Train, set up their rods and cast them all out. They then went into the wheelhouse to make tea. On returning to the deck they were met by eight anglers all reeling in. They couldn't grasp the method. My dad took all the handles off their reels and said, "give us a shout if you think you have a bite". Sure enough they started catching fish; not only that but they had learnt a new method of sea angling.

"Some of the catches they made back then will seem unbelievable by today's standards. An afternoon in May saw 66 thornbacks landed and in June 1976, 180 bass were caught in just two hours"

As a young lad aboard his dad Bob's charter boat

I started going out on the boat regularly from around the age of three. By the time I was five-years-old I was out at least one day every weekend. By the age of seven I was out every weekend and most days in the school holidays. At 13-years-old I basically lived down at Bradwell Marina. To me these catches were just normal. I once told a paying customer that his bass was too small and that he should let it go. That bass weighed about 8lb and the angler was not impressed with my cheeky comment!

By the age of seven I could cast a moderate distance with an uptide rod and a multiplying reel. By nine I was allowed to fish from the bow of my dad's boat, but only on calm days. Once I was 15, I was often his crew and if the paying anglers were new to the sport I would 'fish' for 8-12 anglers. This involved setting up their rods, baiting-up for them, telling them when they had a bite and how to deal with it. I would also often fillet, skin and wing all the fish landed during the steam back to the marina.

THE 1980s AND TOPE

The early 1980s also saw the development of boat casting for tope in the Thames Estuary. Up until then tope were a rarity around these parts. On one occasion a customer was reeling in a fish, which turned out to be an eel, when his rod hooped over and, after a very brief tussle, it was off. On retrieving his end tackle it was noticed that half an eel was still hanging on the hook. Dad then set up a rod with a wire trace and cast it out baited

Essex angler Del Woods with a 45lb tope caught on light boatcasting gear

Sam with a Thames Estuary tope

"The ironic thing is that when my dad stumbled across uptiding he was beach casting from a boat. When I started shore fishing, I was boatcasting from the beach"

Another Thames tope caught uptiding

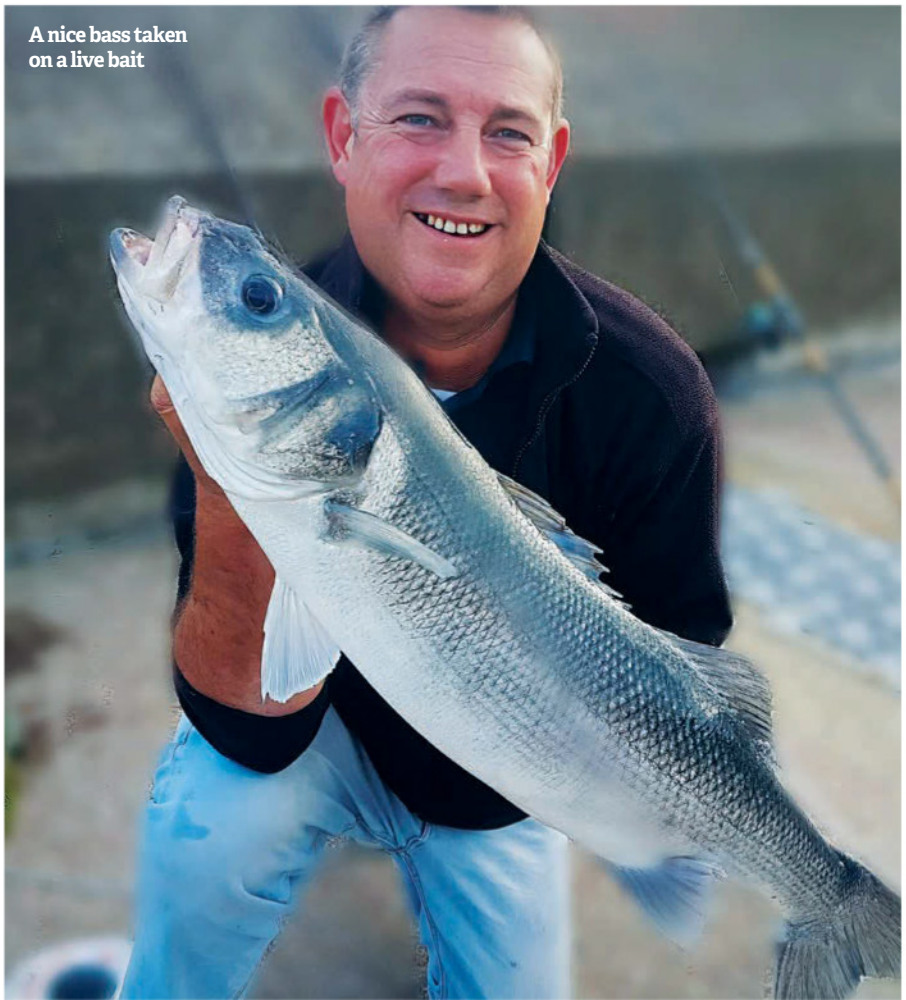
◀ Part of a catch of 99 bass caught boatcasting. Most of these fish were over 8lb. Apart from these fish, all the rest were returned

Clive Gammon and Ian Gillespie were early converts to boat casting, seen here in 1973

UNCLE CLIVE

Those early years of uptiding saw many well-known anglers of the time come to Bradwell Marina to see what the fuss was about. One of the early converts was Clive Gammon. One of Clive's trips included a bait digger from Southend. This guy was star struck by Clive and bent his ear all day long. When the day was over, we all crammed into dad's car for the journey back. Being only six-years-old I had to sit on Clive's lap. The bait digger continued his constant rabbiting at Clive. At some point I butted in asking, "Uncle Clive, do you like fishing for dabs?". Clive, with a big smile on his face, turned to me as if I was the last man on earth and said, "Indeed I do, Sam". We chatted about dab fishing for the next half hour, much to the bait digger's disgust.

"On one occasion a customer was reeling in a fish, which turned out to be an eel, when his rod hooped over and, after a very brief tussle, it was off"



A nice bass taken on a live bait

with an eel tail. The result was the first tope caught on uptide gear. The fish weighed in at 50lb and was returned. Later the tope record was to be held at Bradwell three times. In the 1980s the old 74lb tope record was beaten on John Rawle's boat by a fish of 76lb, only to be beaten three days later by a 79lb tope caught by Phil Richards on Kevin Benham's boat. About a year later that record was beaten again at Bradwell by Bob Chatfield with an 82lb tope, again caught on John Rawle's boat.

Although we never caught a 70lb tope on our boat, dad did have three tope over 60lb in one day; the biggest being a fish of 68lb. These fish were all caught from the top of the East Barrow in around 12ft of water, all to eel section and all to uptiding.

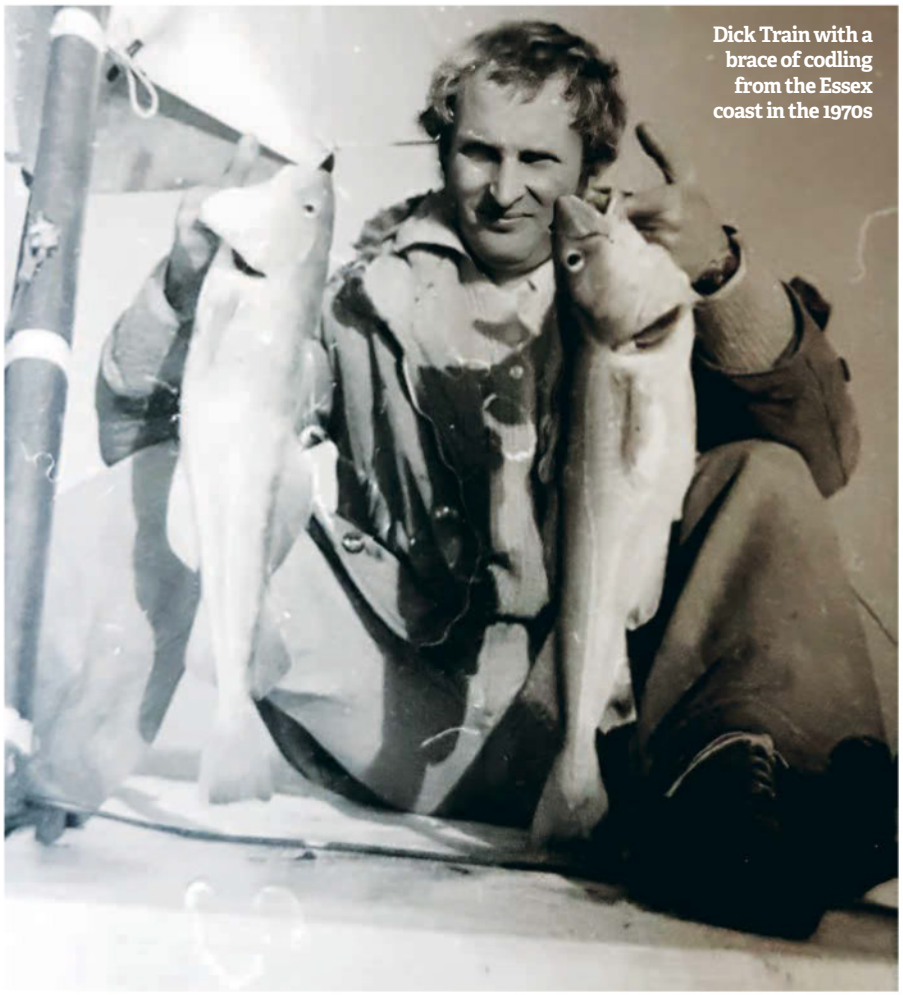
I saw the last years of some truly amazing fishing, catches of bass, cod, thornback rays, smoothhounds and tope that would blow the minds of the younger generation. Although there is, at times, some fairly good fishing to be had nowadays, sadly those glory days are in the past and I very much doubt we will see them again. At its height there were 17 charter boats operating from Bradwell Marina in Essex. Today there is only one. Thornback rays, and smoothhounds to a degree, have made a recovery and the powers that be are struggling to get to grips managing the bass fishery.

I do fear the cod fishery in the southern North Sea has gone forever. I would regularly catch 15-30 cod between 4lb and 10lb with one rod fished from the bow of the boat. Nowadays that would be a good total for the whole winter season. This truly must be one of the biggest cockups in fishery management our country has seen.

THE END OF AN ERA

Dad sold his boat, 'Misty Blue', back in 1996 and sold his business Cox & Rawle about seven years ago. He rarely casts a line now, although he has campaigned for better management of our bass fishery over the years. He has gone back to photography and spends hours out in nature photographing wildlife, specialising in birds of prey. He does get excited when I report back with a good day's fishing and nearly always rings me when I'm out fishing just to see what I have caught.

These days I do a lot of bass fishing from late April through to mid-November when, due to the lack of a cod fishery, I turn to pike fishing. The ironic thing is that when my dad stumbled across uptiding he was beach casting from a boat. When I started shore fishing, I was boatcasting from the beach. I have made some incredibly bad life decisions and have thought with my rod and not my head. I never got to run my own charter boat, a fact I will regret to my dying day. To help make up for this I have owned plenty of small fast fishing boats and had some reasonable boat and shore fishing over the



Dick Train with a brace of codling from the Essex coast in the 1970s

past 25 years. My favourite species is the bass and my favourite method must be wading out on an estuary beach, casting a plain 3oz weight across the tide and letting the bait trundle down tide. Nowadays I use live baits for bass and spend countless hours just waiting for that bite. Sometimes I have good days, like the 17 bass between three and five and three-quarter pounds I caught from my dory on the river Crouch in just two hours, float fishing live pouting along the weed line of the sea wall. Now I am delighted to have discovered the exceptional bass fishing right on my doorstep here at my new home on the Norfolk Broads, something I'll be sharing more of with you when I finally get my new boat on the water this summer.

I think most anglers have their dads to thank for getting them into our sport and I'm certainly no different. Angling has been my life as far back as I can remember; it's what gets me to sleep every night. I had a privileged childhood where angling is concerned and will always hold those very special years close to my heart. ■

Bob Cox literally wrote the book on uptide and boatcasting

Sam (2nd from left) and Donovan Kelly

DONOVAN KELLY

Donavan had reached out to dad after reading his articles in Angling magazine. He read how most of the bass caught on his boat were released and wanted these bass to go back with one of his tags in them. This started decades of long phone calls between these two bass angling fanatics. I met Donovan Kelly most summers on our yearly camping holidays to Cornwall. I wouldn't have said that Donovan was eccentric, far from it, but he did look like he had just stepped off the cast of an Indiana Jones movie, with his signature black moustache, Barbour jacket and dear stalker hat. He could often be seen up to his chest in water at the edge of Daymer Bay fishing for bass with his split cane rod and centre pin reel, while holiday makers swam all around him. Donovan is the only angler I know who would return any unused peeler crabs that he hadn't used as bait back to where he had collected them. Things like that seemed to matter to him.

One summer Donovan caught a bass I had caught the previous summer that dad had tagged. He mentioned this in one of the many write ups he had done for Sea Angler magazine. I remember being chuffed to have my name in the magazine back then. We also helped with Donovan's juvenile bass sampling on the upper reaches of the Camel Estuary. I would float fish, catching black gobies, while dad and Donovan would mess about in rubber dinghies, getting very wet and covered in mud.

One of my funniest memories is of Donovan dressed in a Barbour jacket, dear stalker hat and sporting a large bushy moustache, rowing the sort of rubber dinghy better suited to a summer beach. He was paying out his seine net in a large circle back to my dad who was holding the other end on the bank. Unknown to him the cheap toy dinghy had sprung a leak. As soon as Donovan realised a kind of panic set in. His arms became a blur, frantically beating the water into a froth as he rowed towards the shore. Fortunately, he just about made the bank before having to swim for his life. This image has been indelibly burnt into my memory. Most bass anglers today will not have heard of him but he did the first major study into bass and his contribution to the bass fishing we have now is immeasurable.

Words and photography by DARREN MCKELL

UNDER THE SPELL OF WEST WALES MAGIC

Darren McKell and the Squidward 3 crew took an unforgettable trip to fish with angling guide Joe Shaw who runs a successful guiding business from the pristine Pembrokeshire coast

Our intrepid trio known as Squidward 3 (comprising Daz, Caz and Luke McKell), experienced an amazing fishing odyssey in the coastal waters of South Wales. The trip marked the beginning of a four-day Easter break. Guided by the expertise of Joe Shaw, known as Catch and Cook fishing, our journey began with an early departure from Southampton, towing the Ribcraft R350 behind us (reviewed in issue 634). By 9am we had arrived at our venue in Wales, poised and ready to embark on our multi-day adventure through the rugged beauty of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

ANTICIPATION AND EXPLORATION

With eager anticipation we set out with only our trusty fishing rods, reels and some spare tackle. The weather was against us and, despite encountering challenging weather conditions, including heavy downpours amidst bright sunshine, our spirits remained undeterred. Equipped with Mustang Survival gear, including lightweight Callan jackets and trousers, we aimed to conquer the elements and stay dry throughout the expedition. The versatility and mobility provided by the

Mustang Survival gear proved invaluable over the four days, especially when navigating rocky terrains for the perfect fishing spots. With our movements unhindered, we cast our lines with precision using our 20g plastic jigs and some of Joe's handmade slow gigs. We ventured to several spots along the clifftops of Pen Angas and made our way down the shoreline hopping from rock to rock expertly guided by Joe and hoping to hook our first catch of the day.

Despite the simplicity of our gear, we found ourselves enthralled by the beauty of the rugged coastline and the promise of the open sea. Though the catch may have been modest – a few small pollack and glimpses of porpoises and grey seals – each moment spent by the water filled us with a sense of wonder and excitement. As the day drew to a close, we savoured the thought of a hearty pub meal to cap off the first day of our adventure.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm glow over the coastal landscape, we reflected on the simple joys of the day's adventures. Though our gear may have been modest, the memories made were priceless, setting the stage for the exploration that lay ahead with three days of activity on the water.

Luke crossing some rough water beyond the Ramsey Sound

Luke with a pollack

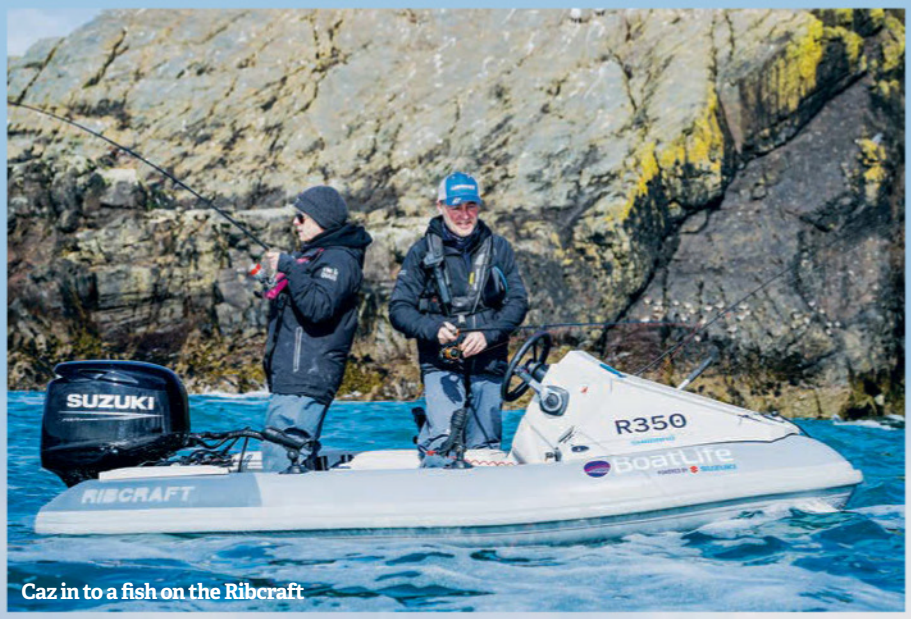
OF KAYAKS AND TRIUMPHS

Our adventure on day two commenced at the historic Fishguard Harbour, a pivotal part of Wales' maritime history. This bustling port has been a hub of activity for centuries, facilitating trade and serving as a gateway to the Irish Sea. Joe and Luke launched their kayaks from a very easy, well maintained concrete slipway.

Caz and I would be aboard the trusty Ribcraft 360. With its relatively sheltered confines we couldn't help but feel a sense of the harbour's storied past. The Ribcraft, equipped with a Suzuki 40hp outboard motor, proved to be an indispensable companion, effortlessly gliding through the waves as we set out to explore the waters.

Guided by Joe's expertise, we set out to explore the waters along the nearby breakwater; with a good 30ft of water close in this was a good rough-ground species mark for pollack and wrasse. With our fishing rods at the ready, and a box of different types of lures, we felt confident. From the classic Cox & Rawle Dexter wedges to soft plastics and the Savage Gear 3D needle jigs; we had them all in a variety of shapes and weights.

With each cast we felt a surge of excitement, knowing that the sea held endless possibilities. We travelled some distance that day following the coast towards Aber Felin checking out each cove. As the day progressed, our efforts were rewarded with plenty of catches including wrasse and even herring. The catch of the day was a 4lb pollack reeled in by Joe himself, marking a moment of triumph amidst the rolling waves.



Caz in to a fish on the Ribcraft

As we basked in the glow of our successful day's fishing, the beauty of the Welsh coastline unfolded before us, a testament to the untamed splendour of nature. With the sun casting a golden hue upon the water, we felt a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to explore such a pristine wilderness. The Ribcraft R350, with its exceptional handling and stability, provided a comfortable and secure platform for our fishing endeavours, allowing us to focus on the thrill of the catch without worrying too much about the elements.

As the day came to a close, Luke and Joe paddled back to Fishguard Harbour for most of the way before we offered the pair a tow back to port – which they eagerly accepted. Our hearts were full of satisfaction and anticipation for the adventures that lay ahead for a new adventure at Porthclais.

Ribcraft in action

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS AND NATURAL WONDERS

Launching from Porthclais Harbour on day three, we embarked on a journey rich with wildlife encounters and coastal beauty. Situated along the rugged coastline of Pembrokeshire, Porthclais Harbour also has a storied past as a maritime hub dating back centuries. Built in the 12th century to serve the city of St. David's, it was once a bustling port with ships importing and exporting goods for coastal communities. Timber, grain, limestone and coal were among the items traded, fuelling the onshore lime kilns and nearby gas works.

We were slightly daunted about launching the boat; the slipway was unfamiliar to us, very rocky and situated far out in very shallow running water. This led to a certain apprehension, however, a friendly local called Tony stepped in offering us guidance which made the task look very easy as he reversed the boat down into the water and slipped the boat off the trailer with ease. Now that the boat was afloat, Luke and Joe drove it around the headland to where Caz and I were waiting with the kayaks.

RELIEF SHADING IS A VITAL TOOL

I used this waiting time well by opening the Navionics mobile app, a trusty companion on our fishing expeditions. With its detailed maps and navigation features, the app had become an indispensable asset for our fishing adventures, especially in unfamiliar territories. I scanned the area, studying the contours of the seabed and identifying potential hotspots for our next catch. With Navionics, I could easily pinpoint areas with promise using the relief and shading feature, helping us target the best fishing marks along the coast. Whether on land or at sea, the app provided invaluable insights, enhancing our fishing experience and increasing our chances of success. As I scrolled through the map, I was eagerly anticipating the thrilling moments that awaited us on this latest fishing excursion.

As we navigated the waters, awestruck by the views around the lifeboat station situated round the cove at St. Justinians, anticipation filled the air. The station, first established by the RNLI in 1869, has a rich history of lifesaving missions. In 1911, the present boathouse was built for the station's first motor lifeboat, marking a significant advancement in maritime rescue capabilities. Over the years, the station has adapted to changing technologies, with the boathouse being adapted for a Tyne class lifeboat in 1987.

Despite a slow start to our fishing expedition, our spirits soared as we spotted a flurry of activity in the distance. Racing off in the RIB towards the spectacle, we were greeted by a mesmerising sight – dolphins

Joe with a nice pollack from the rocks

gracefully dancing alongside diving gannets; a moment which will be etched in our memories forever.

Although our fishing luck didn't yield any grand catches, Luke and Joe managed to reel in some decent-sized pollack and wrasse, adding a touch of triumph to our adventure. As the day drew to a close, we navigated the boat back through the shallow entrance of Porthclais Harbour with ease, a testament to our newfound confidence on the water under the expert guidance of Joe; he understood these waters like the back of his hand.

With the sun beginning to dip below the horizon we managed to recover the RIB on our own. Just as we had finished Tony appeared again to check that we were ok – what a Welsh legend he was to us! We gathered at the local tavern, exchanging stories of our day's exploits over dinner. Laughter filled the air as we recounted the highlights of our coastal journey, from the adrenaline of spotting dolphins to the camaraderie forged amidst the waves.

As we raised our glasses in a toast to the day's adventures, we knew that our time exploring the rugged beauty of Pembrokeshire's coastline had left an indelible mark in our memories. With the promise of more adventures on the horizon, we embraced the sense of freedom and wonder that comes from immersing ourselves in the untamed wilderness of the sea.

As the fourth day dawned upon us in Wales we were greeted by lighter winds and vibrant blue skies, setting the perfect backdrop for our exploration of Solva, a picturesque natural harbour rich in history. Nestled amidst steep hillsides, Solva has served as a vital hub for maritime trade throughout the centuries, offering shelter to sailors from the turbulent seas.

With the boat launched and kayaks in tow, we embarked on another full day of adventure on the water utilising the versatile R350 platform for fishing and photography. We indulged in the tranquil beauty surrounding us. While the big catch eluded us, the smaller ones provided ample excitement. In a thrilling finale, I managed to reel in a commendable cod weighing around four-and-a-half pounds, putting up a spirited fight against the light tackle. With the tide dropping we reluctantly made our way back to port.

CATCH & COOK

Joe's intimate knowledge of the area ensured our adventure was action-packed and memorable. He put in a lot of work in the background organising the days on the water. He checks the tides, the winds, the swells and I know he changed plans several times due to the weather changing constantly. He organised restaurants to eat out in the evenings and changed them when we got back too late. I cannot underestimate the amount of work this person puts in to make sure that you have a great time. The only part we missed out on was Joe's speciality, being able to cook the catch on the beach; the weather prevented this but he is such an excellent guide it didn't matter.

FINAL FAREWELL

It was time to bid farewell to Wales and Solva's historic charm. Our final day in Wales dawned with a reluctance to leave. Gathering along Solva's harbour at the end of the day, we shared stories, cherishing the camaraderie forged during our fishing expedition. Though the trip may not have yielded the big catches we had hoped for, the memories created were priceless.

Our Welsh escapade, made unforgettable by the hospitality of our host, offered quality accommodation and gastronomic delights. I highly recommend experiencing a long weekend or extended holiday in Wales, with a definitive highlight being time spent on the water in a kayak with Joe.

With gratitude for the warm hospitality of Wales and the guidance of Joe Shaw, we bid farewell to Solva, knowing that our fishing adventure had left an enduring mark on our hearts. As we headed homeward the rugged coastline of Wales faded from view, but the memories of our time spent exploring its shores would remain cherished forever. Thank you Joe and Wales for a magical five-star experience. We will be back. ■

To experience the magic for yourself find out more and contact Joe by visiting catchandcook.co.uk

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Words and photographs by TIM MACPHERSON

2024 BLUEFIN SEASON THE FACTS

Tim Macpherson, Chair of the UK Bluefin Tuna Association, explains exactly what you need to know about the issuing of permits for recreational angling for bluefin tuna this year

As many people already know, bluefin tuna have been present in large numbers in UK waters each autumn since around 2016. Scientists, with the help of a group of charter skippers in the South-West, have been gathering data about these fish since 2021 under the CHART programme (Catch and Release Tagging) which was instigated and largely designed by a small group of anglers and skippers. Thousands of anglers have been able to go on these specifically authorised and trained charter boats and experience the extraordinary thrill of hooking into one of these amazing fish.

CHART was a science programme rather than a fully-fledged fishery, and for a variety of reasons was subject to constraints, including its size and the techniques used. Thanks to the relentless lobbying of recreational angling groups, and the necessary questions being answered in the CHART programme, Defra set up a special group of stakeholders, including experienced anglers and charter skippers, to consult on being able to open the fishery to a wider range of anglers. CHART would evolve into a fully-fledged Catch and Release Recreational Fishery, CRRF. After dozens of meetings and many hours of discussion and consultation the end of this process is now very close. So, what does it all mean and what happens next?

The first part of the process was to persuade the government to change the law. Under the rules of ICCAT (International Council for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) all tuna fishing is controlled by a quota system so both recreational and commercial fishers have to have a permit to fish for tuna.

CHANGE IN THE LAW

In order to allow permitting of recreational angling the Fisheries Act of 2020 needed to be amended. Once the government agreed to do this using what is called a Statutory Instrument the work began to both 'lay' the legislation before Parliament and to design the fishery. Both of these processes were more complicated than it might seem.

After many hours of Teams calls between various stakeholders we now have the legislation going through Parliament and, all things being equal, it will become law in early June.

PERMITTING TIMETABLE

Once this has happened then the MMO (Marine Management Organisation) will open applications for permits in mid-June and will stay open for around three weeks. Permits will be issued in mid-July and the bluefin season will open in early August and run to early December.

TRAINING AND CODES OF CONDUCT

One critical aspect of the fishery is ensuring a sustainable, safe fishery, maintaining the welfare of the fish that are being targeted and safeguarding the anglers involved in targeting these fish. Bluefin caught over the last few years in UK waters have averaged over 130kg and have been caught, tagged and released up to around 400kg. These are big fish, some the size of a small minibus. They are powerful fish with a unique physiology and anglers need to understand how to handle them correctly. The stakeholder group has devised an accredited bluefin training programme for all permit holders to take part in.

This training consists of a day with a CHART charter skipper on board their boat plus accompanying training videos and material made available as back up. There is also a Code of Conduct for permit holders designed to embed best practice in both angler safety and fish welfare. Both the training programme and the Code have been designed by experienced skippers, anglers, scientists and conservation experts are endorsed by Defra, the MMO, CEFAS, Natural England are endorsed by Defra, the MMO, the Angling Trust the UKBFTA and the Professional Boatman's Association. They are the ONLY such programmes endorsed in this way, and the intention is for them to be funded by Government schemes and several of the stakeholder organisations, to be delivered free of charge to successful permit applicants.

BLUEFIN QUOTA

There are strict quotas in place for all nations who fish for bluefin both recreationally and commercially. These quotas are fixed by ICCAT and are strictly monitored. They are designed to prevent overfishing and have contributed to the substantial recovery of the species since 2010, with the IUCN 'Red List' recently re-rating them from 'endangered' to 'least concern'.

The UK has been granted 66.15 tonnes for 2024 and this will be split across targeted commercial and recreational fishing. 39 tonnes have been allocated to the second-year pilot commercial fishery and will be split between 13 vessels. This may seem like a lot, but in fact it represents around 70 fish (the estimated average size of bluefin caught is around 100kg), which is a tiny proportion of the biomass – to put this in perspective, in one aggregation of fish I witnessed last year there must have been over 100 fish. There are many hundreds of such aggregations seen over the course of the season.

The recreational fishery has access to 16 tonnes – so why do we need a quota when we aren't intentionally killing any fish? Although mortality amongst the CHART tagging fleet over the last three years was very low, it does happen and has to be accounted for. This is what this quota is designated against. Defra and stakeholder representative groups were required to estimate how many permits that 16 tonnes might support in the catch and release fisheries in England and Wales this year.

Should the quota allocated to any sector be reached, that fishery will be required to cease operating, causing huge disruption to skippers, anglers and local businesses who would benefit from this fishery. As result, and given the many unknowns, a conservative approach has been taken this year trying to balance the limited available quota against the demand, whilst ensuring the fishery can operate for the full season. That has resulted in up to 100 permits being made available for England and Wales this year. We are hopeful that if the fishery operates as well as the CHART programmes, this number will increase in future years.

WHAT ABOUT MY BOAT?

Private recreational vessels will be eligible for permits (if they meet the eligibility requirements mentioned elsewhere here), and Defra has 'ringfenced' part of the 16 tonnes to provide a minimum number of permits for that sector this year. Again, this may grow substantially in coming years subject to a variety of factors including quota use.

So after years of behind the scenes campaigning, lobbying and hours of meetings with Defra and the MMO we have designed a fishery which we hope will eventually be regarded as "World Class" and will not only allow thousands more anglers to get the chance to catch one of the magnificent bluefin tuna (over 3,000 have already had the opportunity over the last three years under the CHART tagging programme), but also provide a significant boost to the coastal communities from which these angling expeditions will be launched.

Having caught a few bluefin over the years I can safely say it's one of the most exciting, challenging and tiring fishing I've ever done. ■

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PERMIT?

Defra announced this permitting regime just before Easter (www.gov.uk/guidance/plans-for-the-2024-bluefin-tuna-bft-catch-and-release-recreational-fisheries) and in the initial phases have asked for an expression of interest from people who want permits. To be eligible for a permit you must meet the following criteria (from Defra website):

You must be the owner of a vessel registered in the UK under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

Your vessel must not be less than 5m in overall length and must be powered by an engine/motor.

You must not have secured a permit for the UK commercial BFT fishery trial - see the commercial BFT section.

If your vessel is used for charter fishing trips, you will need to provide a copy of your Small Commercial Vessel Certificate (SCV2).

You will be asked to submit a recent photograph of your vessel with any external name/registration markings on display.

All applications will then be evaluated once the permit application process has closed. If MMO receive more applications than the number of permits available, then MMO will prioritise applications as follows:

1 Charter vessels owned by CHART skippers.
2 Charter vessels owned by those who crewed on CHART vessels
3. Charter vessels not linked to CHART.

As mentioned elsewhere, a certain amount of quota will also be ring fenced for use by private recreational boat owners.
www.ukbfta.co.uk

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Words and Photography by DAVE LEWIS

CORKWING WRASSE

UK & IRELAND SPECIALIST SPECIES HUNTING

Tick another species of your list this month with Dave Lewis' advice on where to target, and how to definitively identify, this colourful reef dweller

The corkwing wrasse, Symphodus melops, is found in the eastern Atlantic ranging from Norway to Morocco, and west as far as the Azores. They are also found in the Mediterranean. Corkwing wrasse can be found in areas of rock or eel grass at depths varying from as little as one metre down to 30m. In the UK corkwing wrasse are widely distributed around much of the coast, especially the rockier areas of the South West and the Channel Islands. The British record is held with a fish that weighed 360g, fractionally over three quarters of a pound, and was caught off Portland in Dorset in 2005.

IDENTIFICATION

Corkwings are a popular target species with both species and LRF anglers and are occasionally misidentified as being one of the other species of wrasse: often a small ballan. With practice, confirming the identity of a corkwing is pretty straightforward. As with most species of wrasse, corkwing display a wide range of colouration depending upon their environment and age. Key features include a black spot in the middle of the tail stalk along with a comma shaped spot behind the eye. Females and juveniles tend to be brown or greenish brown, while the males are typically more brightly coloured. Both sexes have lines on their heads and gill covers which are brown and pale blue in the female, and bright green or blue in the male. For me the key identification point is that the outer edge of the gill cover of a corkwing wrasse is serrated, like a fine-tooth hacksaw blade.

Not widely regarded as being of value as a source of food, sadly corkwing wrasse have had a commercial value since 1988 because of its ability to remove parasites from other fish, notably removing the lice from farmed salmon. Inevitably, in many areas where once these, along with other species of wrasse, were common this has led to a sharp decline in fish stocks.

TACKLE & TACTICS

When targeting corkwing wrasse clearly it is essential to use small hooks, size 10-12 are perfect. Corkwings will take most baits; I have caught them using small pieces of ragworm or the legs off a peeler crab. They can also be successfully targeted using both small soft-plastic and metal LRF lures and baits.

An LRF outfit is ideal when fishing for these and other mini species from the shore, and continental style boat rods with a fine quiver tip are perfect if fishing afloat. Rigs consisting of two or three hooks presented paternoster style are all that's necessary. The addition of coloured beads might help, but these are not essential. Many species hunters I have fished with put a lot of faith in small luminous beads, and even leads coated in luminous or brightly coloured paint. Bait the hook with just enough bait to cover the bend, then lower the baited rig all the way down to the bottom. Maintain direct contact with the baited rig to detect bites, which are usually hard and positive. Set the hook by lifting when the fish is tugging away at the bait.

I have personally caught corkwing wrasse fishing at numerous locations throughout the south and west of the UK, including several rocky locations in south and west Wales. Some of the most productive areas are found over small, isolated, wrecks. ■

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

SHORE ANGLING

ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address

CHRIS KENNEDY

Chris is a specimen hunting specialist based on Sark and answers shore fishing questions.

DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.

DAVID MITCHELL

David is Sea Angler's editor and is an expert on sea angling policy and conservation .

HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.

BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

BRIAN PASK

Brian is a qualified sea angling coach and casting tutor who works with young people and experienced anglers to improve their fishing skills.

Q I live in Eastbourne and only seem to catch small fish on my local beach sessions every few weeks. I am contemplating a trip abroad to try for some bigger fish. I am wondering if any of your contributors have any suggestions. I haven't had anything over 6lb in my five years of sea angling. Any help would be appreciated in terms of where to go.

TERRY PIMBLETT, EAST SUSSEX

CK says: Speaking from my own excursions abroad, there are two destinations that spring to mind, with both being very popular with sea anglers from the UK.

Norway offers fantastic scenery, deep water and giant cod, halibut, pollock, coafish, ling and plaice, as well as plenty of species like haddock, ghost sharks and long nose skate. It really is a fantastic experience. However, it can be pretty cold and it isn't the cheapest of options. Somewhere like Skarnsundet in the Trondheimsfjord would probably set you back around a £1,000 for a week, including flights, accommodation (self-catering), fuel and car hire, if sharing in a group.

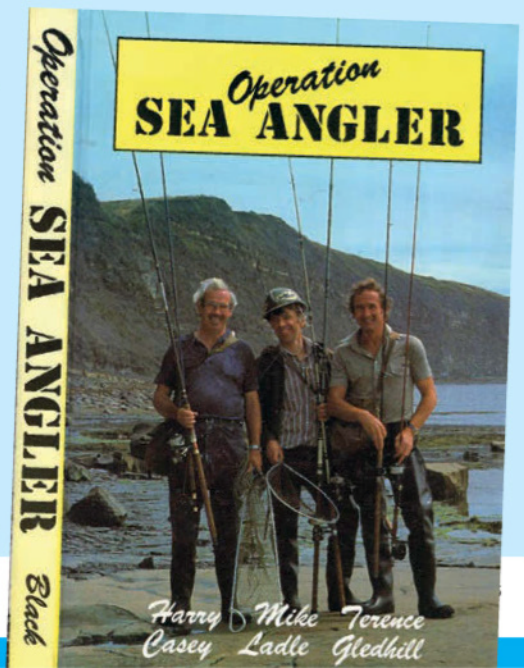
If cold weather isn't exactly your thing, then I would recommend heading to Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands. You can catch stingrays up to a couple of hundred pounds or more from easily accessible beaches and also large butterfly rays, bull rays, bream and some unusual skate. There are pelagic species like bonito, bluefish, barracuda and even tuna around. There's lots to target in warm temperatures. It'll cost you £650 for a week including flights, accommodation (self-catering), car hire and fuel.

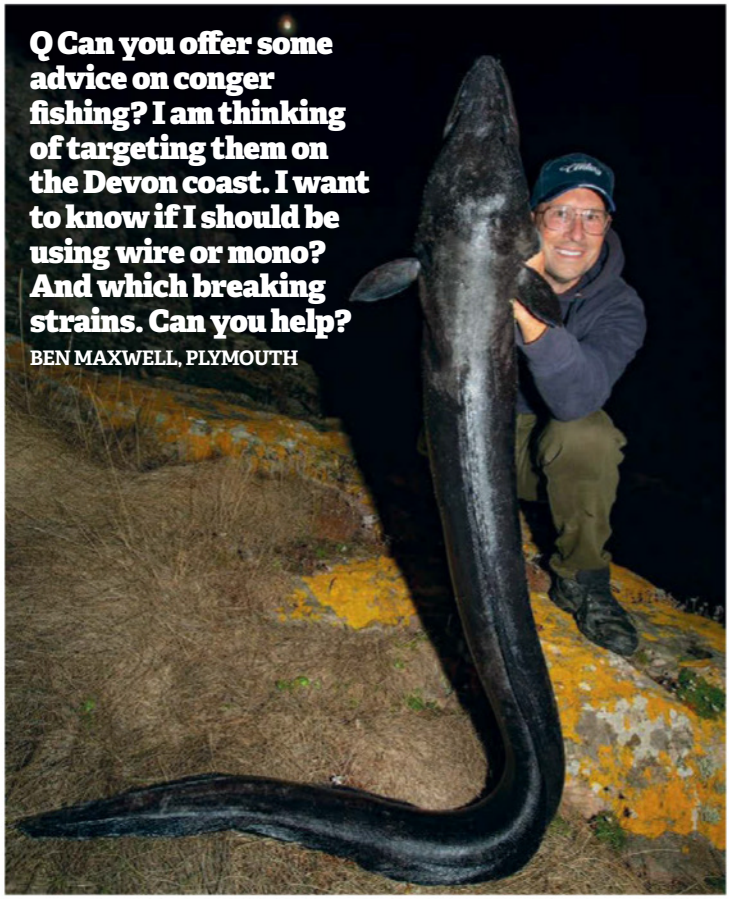
Both countries are accessible from Gatwick. The latter will involve you buying a fishing license for around £50 online. I hope this helps.

Q Are there any fishing books that will help me improve my bass angling that you'd recommend?

KARL MATHERS, LYME REGIS

CK says: I think it's a straight toss-up between Mike Ladle's "Operation Sea Angler" and Alan Vaughan's "Hooked On Bass". Both are stunning works loaded with useful knowledge and diagrams. They'll make you want to get out and wet a line immediately. There is very little that these authors don't know about bass fishing in the UK. If you want to improve you catch conversion and know how to find the big ones, these are your best bets in terms of educational reading.





Q Can you offer some advice on conger fishing? I am thinking of targeting them on the Devon coast. I want to know if I should be using wire or mono? And which breaking strains. Can you help?

BEN MAXWELL, PLYMOUTH

CK says: I personally use 90lb AFW 49 strand wire. You can crimp it or knot it as it's reasonably supple. You won't need a higher breaking strain. There is some argument about which is safer for the fish. If you have concerns about that then 150lb - 200lb breaking strain mono of an abrasion resistant type like Rovex 10X would be a great option.

Q With mackerel season approaching fast for me in Dorset, I would like to know if they survive when releasing them? I saw someone claiming on a forum that if you touch them with your hands, they do not survive. Is this true?

PAT LAWTON, WEYMOUTH.

CK says: I think there is truth in this. I would use a wet towel that has been dipped in saltwater when handling mackerel. I believe the oil from our skin damages them and reduces their chance of recovery. So, if you do want to unhook and release them, don't touch them with your hands.

Q I am new to sea angling. Last year I caught my first mackerel on the beautiful Hebridean island of Colonsay and I'm now obsessed. I'm going back next August; some of the blogs I've read talk about sea trout to be had. Am I allowed to target these? If I'm targeting bass but accidentally catch a trout, can I keep it or are they protected and must be released? Or is a permit required?

ANDY JAMES

DM says: This is somewhat of a grey area. Unlike in England and Wales where you need an Environment Agency rod licence, in Scotland you need the permission of the landowner or the Crown Estate to fish for and take sea trout. The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 states "Any person who without legal right, or without written permission from a person having such right, fishes for or takes salmon (including sea trout) in any waters, including any part of the sea within 1.5 kilometres of mean low water springs, shall be guilty of an offence". Some landowners are issuing shore permits for sea trout, so I suggest you check on Colonsay who the landowner is, whether they are issuing permits or whether you can get written permission.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

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or online: facebook.com/seaanglermag

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SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q At the moment I am living in Italy but will be moving back to the UK in the summer. I have never done sea fishing. How do you tie the braided tubing to the hook? In fly fishing we use Superglue to join the backing to the line. Is it the same?

ALAN ELMES

DL says: Assuming you are referring to what are known as assist hooks, there are several ways of attaching the braided tubing to the hook. Personally, I do not like using glue on knots: if the hook is tied correctly glue should be unnecessary. Most anglers splice, or simply tie, the tubing to the hook and create the loop necessary to attach the lure. You will find a lot of excellent tutorial for this online. Google 'how to tie an assist hook'.

Q I'm really hoping to land my first tope this year. How important is it to place my bait away from the boat? Will I have a better chance if I cast away from the boat rather than just dropping it over the side?

CRAIG ELLIS

DL says: If you are fishing in shallow water, depths less than 50-70ft, then casting a bait away from the boat will likely improve your chances of success with tope. This technique, which is known as uptiding or boat casting, was originally designed to fish baits away from the 'scare area' created by a boat anchored in shallow water. In deeper water simply dropping the bait straight down to the bottom will be effective.

Q If I have first choice of position in the limited space on a charter trip is there a best space or do the different places have different advantages?

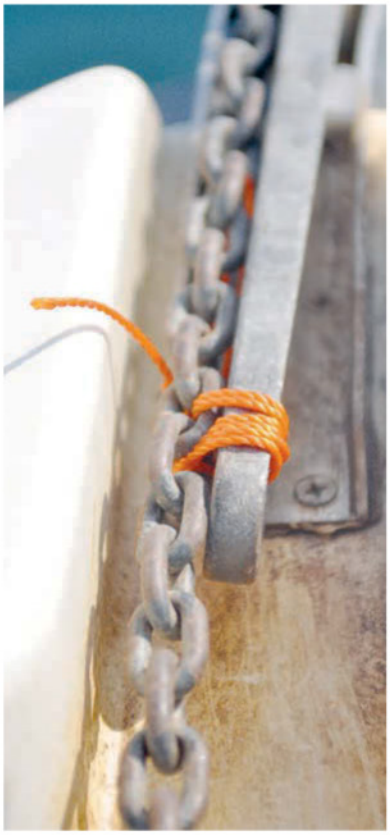
CRAIG ELLIS

DL says: Everything depends on how you are fishing. For example, if uptiding then generally the preferred spots are those as far forward as it is possible to fish, which aboard most charter boats is immediately behind the wheelhouse. If fishing downtide then fishing at the very back of the cockpit against the transom is the favoured spot.

Q How do you rig an expensive anchor to break free when anchoring over rough ground or a wreck?

PETE PARSONS

DL says: To rig an anchor 'to trip,' start by securing the chain to the bottom of the anchor using a shackle. Next, lay the chain along the shank of the anchor and secure at the top of the shank using either cord or cable ties. This will ensure that the anchor deploys in the correct direction, however, if it becomes snagged, steady, carefully applied pressure will break this relatively weak attachment, thus reversing the pull on the anchor and hopefully allowing it to be pulled free from the stage.



Q What is a squid 'wrap'?

BARRY LAMB

DL says: A squid wrap is a cocktail bait created by wrapping another bait inside the mantle of a squid. Typical baits include sandeels (as shown), peeler crab, worms, shellfish or cuts of fish such as mackerel. The resulting bait is large, full of scent and, being contained within the squid, durable to the unwanted attention of crabs and small fish. Squid wraps are popular with anglers targeting cod, ray, conger and most other large species.

Q We catch a lot of bull huss in the area I fish but, frustratingly, a high percentage of fish spit the bait at the surface. How can this be avoided?

JASON QUINN

DL says: What you have experienced is common with huss, which have a tendency to hold on to a bait all the way to the surface, then let go. To help avoid this always ensure the points of your hooks are clear and exposed, and not buried within the bait. Give bites plenty of time to allow the fish to fully eat the bait. Finally, make sure someone is standing by with a landing net to secure your fish at the first opportunity!

Q&A

LURE FISHING

Q I worry about my expensive new spinning reel around saltwater. Any tips and tricks for looking after it?

MIKE SALTER

HG says: The simple and unavoidable fact is that most spinning reels do not like saltwater very much! You can quite happily fish with many different spinning reels when you go bass fishing, but if your bass fishing happens to involve a lot of saltwater splashing around, with the inevitable dunking of rod and reel, then most spinning reels will be harmed in some way. A lot of reels these days do have some kind of way they try to protect against too much saltwater ingress; however, unless you go down the Van Staal or Penn Authority/Slammer IV/ Spinfisher VII route then I would advise you to try all you can not to dunk your reel or let it get heavily and repeatedly splashed by saltwater.

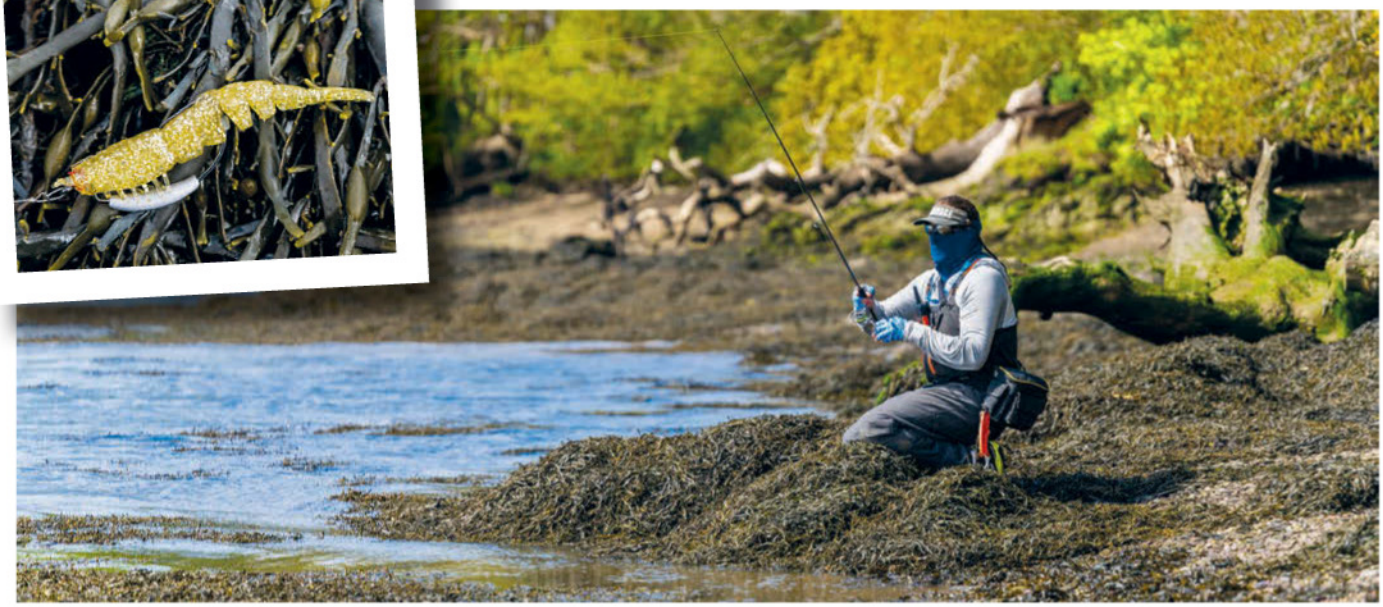
When I get home from fishing I always tighten the drag down on my spinning reel and hose it down with freshwater. I then loosen the drag off and allow the reel to drip-dry. The moment I feel any kind of "raspiness" anywhere in the reel I will put oil or grease into the relevant bearing or whichever part I feel needs a bit of TLC. If my reel ever gets an unintentional dunking then the moment I get home I will fill a sink with warm water, tighten the drag on the reel, fully submerge it, then turn the handle multiple times. Then I take the reel out of the water, slacken off the drag, and allow it to drip-dry. I am pretty sure that tackle companies do not suggest we do what I describe, but I have saved a number of spinning reels like this when they have been dunked underwater. Leave the reel after a dunking and I can guarantee that with many of them, saltwater has got in there and a bearing will end up rusting or seizing up.

The one area on any spinning reel which I think needs extra attention is the line roller assembly. Think about how much saltwater is literally spitting off your braid under tension as you retrieve lures. I don't care how much tackle companies talk about how they protect the line roller area – saltwater is getting in, end of! I always take the line roller assembly apart – but be careful – pack it with Penn Precision Reel Grease, put it back together and wipe off the excess grease. Since I have been doing this I have not had a single line roller failure.

Q With all this talk about imitating shore crabs for bass, using creature baits, surely it is also worth thinking about imitating prawns?

JASON BOWERS

HG says: I couldn't agree more! I used to spend many nights collecting prawns in my drop nets to tank at home and use for bait for thornback rays. I remember watching the eyes of the prawns in my headlamp as they scuttled into the drop net on the hunt for the bait. Okay, so I was using them mainly for ray fishing at the time, but we all know how bass also love to eat prawns. If you go looking you will find some amazing looking prawn imitations which can be rigged and fished in all manner of different ways on a lure rod. Look at something like the Z-Man EZ ShrimpZ 3.5in rigged on the Z-Man ZWG Weighted Swimbait Hook. It's quite incredible how lifelike it looks when you twitch it around. As with the creature baits, I have a lot to learn about "offering" prawn type lures to the bass, but I am going to start off by using them in the same areas as I would my crab imitations and then go from there. I think back to the areas of bladderwrack and weed where I used to drop-net and push-net for prawns and it makes sense that this is where bass would be hunting for them.



Q I am looking for a lure rod to fish in proper surf conditions. What do I need to consider in a rod for surf fishing?

SCOTT HINKSMAN

HG says: Ask the same question of ten bass anglers and you might well get ten different answers. But for me, I want a lure rod that is not going to struggle when I need to bang a Savage Gear Surf Seeker in the 40g size. I also don't want a tip on the rod which is going to bounce around in what is often going to be a fair bit of wind. I also don't want a rod that is so ridiculously powerful my shoulders want to fall apart after a few hours of banging metals into a strong headwind and powerful surf. I tend to like a rod around 9ft 6in long for my surf fishing, but I will gladly step up to 10ft if the rod is good enough. I have also done well with the right 9ft rod. A number of rods will cope well in the surf, but if I tell you what my ultimate surf rod is then you can at least try and handle one in a tackle shop and better understand what I am talking about. For all the expensive lure rods I get to try out for my work, the surf rod I turn to is the £150 Savage Gear SGS5 9ft 6in 12-46g rod. I love it.

Q&A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q Do certain colour and scent soft plastics work better in the summer months or does it really matter?

JOE PEARSON

BB says: Colour and scent do matter, but what is great about the warmer months is that you have the chance to try everything in your tackle box, using the higher water temperatures and more active species to see what works for each situation. These golden months can be used to increase the confidence going into the chillier seasons. I like to set myself targets, for example, how many species can I catch on hard plastics? Or can I catch a certain species on a certain lure? That's the fun of the summer months; you have the chance to experiment.

Testing our new lures, like this Savage Gear Gravity Pencil, is one of the simple joys of summer

Rockpools can make for surprisingly captivating angling

Q Can you explain the tactics for rockpool fishing: what rockpool to fish, what to look for and what species would you expect to catch?

DAVE FORD

BB says: Some of the most entertaining fishing I have ever done has been from rockpools. I have caught everything from tiny blennies to large ballan wrasse and even cuttlefish from them. If you are familiar with the British coastline you will know rockpools vary greatly, and it goes without saying that the larger, deeper pools with more cover are the most productive. However, even the shallow pools with simply a flat rock as cover can produce clingfish and blennies. I use light jigheads with size 10 hooks or smaller if I'm simply searching the pools. If I want a smaller species then a split-shot rig with a tiny hook is the answer. Use suitable sized lures or sections of artificial bait like Gulp/Isome for your target species and get fishing. Rockpool LRF is all about stealth and patience, working your lures around the gaps and overhangs with minimal shadows on the water and limited disturbance.

Q I've heard about anglers searching the water column for pelagic fish when using metals. What's the best way to do this?

CHARLIE SEBBAGE

BB says: The simplest way is casting and counting down. If the ground is clean, I like to start at the bottom, using a lift and fall technique, then work my way up through the water layers. You can do this by counting how long it takes the lure to get to the bottom, then reducing the count each time to find the fish. Metals are perfect for this as they cast far and drop consistently though the water column. This can also be replicated with soft plastics, depending on your target species and how slowly you wish to present a lure.

Mackerel aren't always at the surface, it pays to search the water column for them

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SEA SCHOOL

How to improve your fishing skills

YOU GOTTA BEND IT TO SEND IT!

Coach Brian explains why the right rod is the one that works best for you, and how 12 young anglers got on with their first taste of competitive match angling

Much of my coaching in the past few months has been around improving people's casting. I ran a one- to-one session for Warren who wanted to learn the pendulum cast. We spent some time working on the swing before unleashing several casts in the general direction of the French coast. Warren certainly had his Zziplex M4 bending more than he has ever had it before and, after an hour, was tired but very happy.

Warren's M4 is a cracking rod and it is something he can bend to get good distance. The old adage, "bend it to send it" is true; however, some rods bend too easily in some anglers' hands and other anglers struggle to bend their rods properly!

When looking for a new rod, whenever possible, try it before you buy it. At least get your hands on the rod and strap a reel to it. Does it feel right in your hands?

I have spoken to several tackle dealers who have rods sold back to them so the angler can buy a new one – many are still virtually new! The angler just didn't get on with the rod. Asking on social media 'which is the best rod?' will get you dozens of answers, all giving the writers' favourite – it does not mean that this is the best rod for you.

Getting the right rod for the angler and making sure you have a full spool of line, especially with a fixed spool reel, will, in itself, give you better distance. But remember that being able to cast big distances is a great tool to have but finding the fish is better!

Getting the right rod for the right person was highlighted in an event run by a well-known fishing tackle dealer in Eastbourne who asked me to run some demonstrations with his rods and try and improve some customers' casting abilities.

I spent the day working and talking with customers, getting them to try out different rods so they could find the best one for them – it was not always the one they thought they would buy! ■

NUTURING THE ANGLERS OF THE FUTURE

I am a massive fan of getting young people involved in sea fishing. I run a youth section at my local angling club where we have a team of qualified coaches who look after up to 20 youngsters on club night. We teach them casting, rig choice, bait choice and a host of other things to do with beach fishing.

We also spend time talking about and demonstrating marine ecology and sustainability. We should all try to make our waters better than we currently find them.

I was asked by the organiser of a charity beach fishing match if I could arrange a youth competition to be run alongside the adults. On the day we had 12 young anglers who, regrettably, were not in the best areas to fish. Despite this, every one of them worked hard at their fishing throughout the five-hour match. For most this was their first taste of match angling and I for one was extremely proud of their efforts. The match was won by a young man called Spencer and second on the day was, I believe, our youngest competitor, Ellie.

The biggest winner on the day was the charity, as I have been informed that £1,800 was raised. Huge congratulations go to the lads who organised it and everyone who participated.

I am now running taster events for adults in Hastings and the surrounding areas. This gives people a chance to try sea fishing without having to purchase all the necessary equipment. I have to say that it has been a resounding success and we have managed to get more regular anglers as a result of these sessions. Onwards and upwards!

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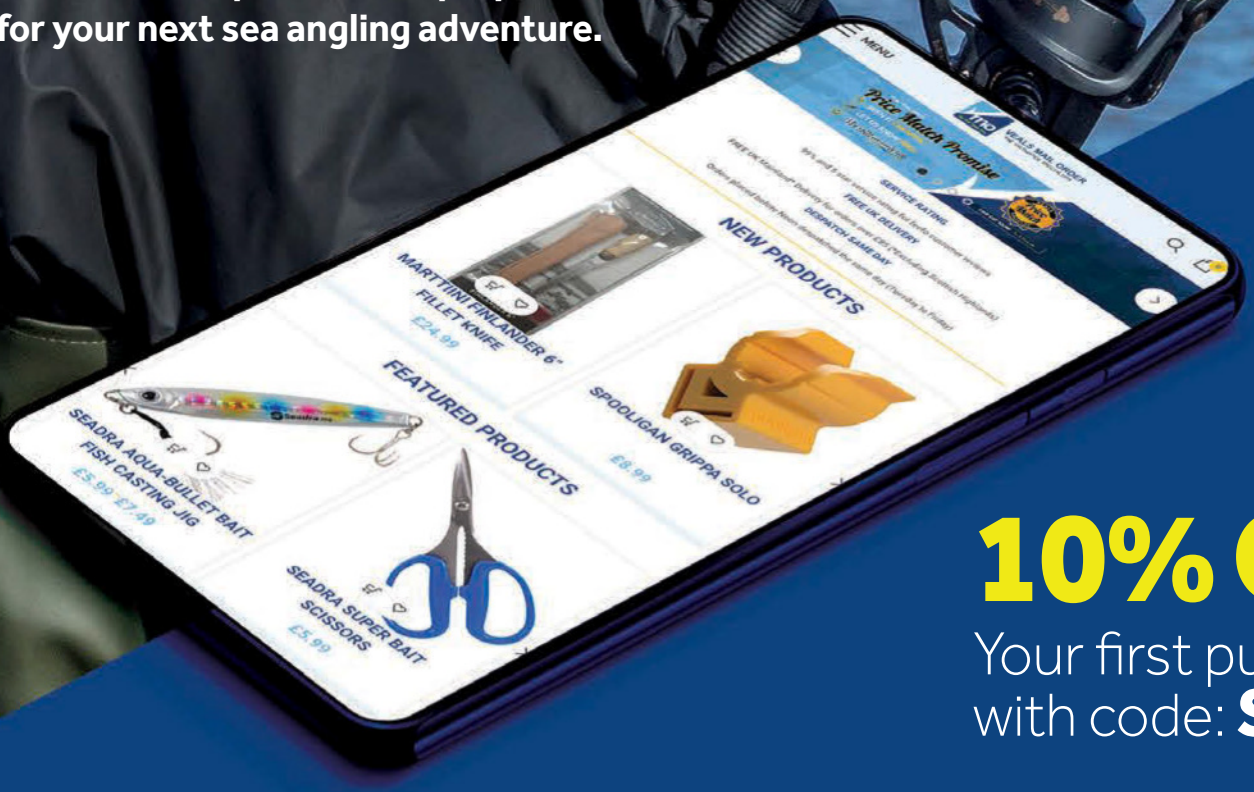

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FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

DECOY DS 13 SWITCH HEAD

The Decoy DS-13 Switch Head is a football type sinker that allows you to create a joint rig by setting your favourite offset hook. The delta-shaped head can be used either front or rear by removing the sliding pin and reversing it.

Due to the characteristics of each shape, it is possible to switch the Decoy DS-13 Switch Head between snag-less mode, which has excellent slip-through, and stack mode, which reduces travel distance. The design covers a variety of situations and allows you to tweak your presentation in the quest for extra takes.

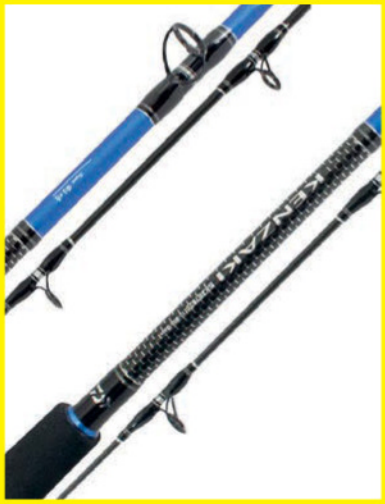
It is very effective when combined with a buoyant soft bait and then bounced across the seabed. This works well for bass in estuaries and wrasse in rockier areas. The Switch Heads are available in five sizes: 7g, 9g, 11g, 14g, 18g.

- RRP: £7.99
- www.veals.co.uk

DAIWA SUPER KENZAKI – SKZB7020-BU

Daiwa's ever popular Super Kenzaki range has continued to evolve with all the latest advances in rod building technology. This latest edition sees the looks and performance given a huge makeover, offering an even better, more powerful rod.

The rod comes in two equal sections and Daiwa's V-Joint system gives a secure join and an action similar to a one-piece blank. Improved fittings with hard wearing Fuji guides, Fuji DPS screw winch reel seat and Fuji Gimbal RRC butt cap add some extra class to the rod. The full-length EVA handle features Daiwa's 'Power-Lift' shaped foregrip which gives a firm grip and prevents the rod from rolling in your hand when you are winding hard or playing a big fish.



- Powerful carbon blank
- V-Joint
- EVA fore and rear grip
- Fuji 'O' Ring guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Fuji GRC butt cap
- Shaped 'Power-Lift' fore-grip
- The length is 7ft (2.13m) for the 12-20lb class rod

- RRP: £190
- www.daiwasports.co.uk

SAVAGE GEAR CASTING STALL

Savage Gear Casting Stall is a flexible and comfortable casting stall that will protect your index finger when extreme repetitive casting is required. Featuring a combination of neoprene and quick-drying foam mesh, this stall is fully adjustable thanks to the elastic sections and Velcro cuff. A suede-like material on the back of the finger helps improve grip.

- Neoprene and quick-dry foam mesh
- Elastic and adjustable Velcro cuff
- Protection and flexibility
- One size
- RRP: £9.99
- www.savage-gear.com

SNOWBEE DEEP BLUE 12 BOAT REEL

Deep Blue rods and reels have not been available in the UK market for a while but now they're back. These reels use a twin-drag system with advanced HT100 carbon fibre and titanium drag discs to apply pressure equally to both sides of the spool, providing a perfectly even and best possible balanced drag. This also provides double the drag pressure giving a class leading maximum 30Kg of drag.

The increased drag to surface area, also results in near zero start-up inertia, and with a silky-smooth drag performance, helps avoid frustrating break-offs possible from smash takes and typically bigger fish. Operated using the single lever drag control, provides superb and smooth control across the Dual-drag system from zero to maximum.

Japanese stainless-steel shielded bearings provide smoother running and all internal components are either stainless steel or aluminium, for total corrosion resistance.

The frame and spool are CNC machined from solid bar-stock, aerospace grade AL6061-T6 aluminium, for strength & light weight, with a hard-anodised finish to provide total saltwater corrosion & chip resistance.

The main and pinion gears, are also stainless steel and provide high gear ratios for faster retrieve. A double anodised and perforated free-spool system allows faster line-out, while a one-way stainless-steel roller bearing provides the trustworthy anti-reverse, "Power-Lock" system. Each reel comes complete with a Rod Clamp, plus a Neoprene reel case.

- RRP: £400
- www.snowbee.co.uk

THE BERKLEY POWER HERRING

The Berkley Power Herring is the perfect all-round lure for big cod, coalfish and halibut. These lures come rigged with a curly-tail and a spare body with a paddle tail. This lure has a deadly action even at a low retrieve speed. Added PowerBait scent makes the Power Herring a must have for anglers seeking large fish over wrecks here in the UK and for those heading to Norway and fishing for large cod and halibut.

FEATURES:

- PowerBait flavoured
- Saltwater resistant chemically sharpened hooks
- Available in irresistible colours
- Perfect for jigging, spinning and trolling
- Deadly action with either a curly tail or paddle tail
- Ring for attaching a stinger hook
- RRP: £19.99- £21.99
- www.rokmax.com

SAKUMA SUPASHOCK

Sakuma Supashock is described as being a 'hi-tech co-polymer leader that is both super soft and super strong with a low diameter.' This excellent new leader material knots beautifully and a noteworthy addition to the tackle box for any angler, boat or shore, regardless of whether you fish at home or abroad.

- Available in 50lb, 60lb, 80lb and 100lb breaking strains (0.62, 0.66, 0.83 and 0.98mm respectively)
- Spools contain 100m of line, with the exception of 100lb that contains 85m
- RRP: from £6.32
- www.sakuma.co.uk

STONFO BIG BOAT FEEDER

From Italian tackle manufacturer Stonfo comes the Big Boat Feeder which gets ground bait to a depth where you expect your targeted species to be and to entice them into the area that you are fishing. It will draw in bass, bream and any other shoaling species like big cod and can be used when ledgering or when drift fishing. Simply fill the feeder, lock the lid and lower it from the boat

- RRP: £51.00
- www.sharnbrooktackle.com

Words and pictures
DAVE LEWIS

DAVE'S DIARIES

STORIES FROM A LIFETIME OF ANGLING

Kevin Linnane fishing the reef 'old school', 30lb class boat rod and multiplier reel

IRISH REEF BASHING

A day afloat fishing the reefs of the west coast has always been a great way to start a fishing holiday to Ireland. The only thing that's changed over the years is the tackle and Dave's Lewis' compulsion to catch as many fish as possible

It was the great American outdoor writer Henry Thoreau who once wrote: 'Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after'. And that may well be the case, but there is no doubt that my first trips to Ireland were exclusively about catching fish. To be more precise, catching as many fish in the time available as possible! Unlike Thoreau, rather than immerse myself in the simple delight of just being there and enjoying the wonderful place, the people and the whole experience of fishing in a different country, I was blinkered by the opportunity of catching the sort of numbers of fish that then and now are rarely, if ever seen at home. Over the years, thankfully, this single-minded attitude changed. Increasingly I became more appreciative of the pristine environment in which I was privileged to visit and fish, until eventually I arrived at the point where the actual process of catching fish had become almost an aside to simply being in Ireland.

Looking back on those early days I think that the reasons for my early compulsion to hook as many fish as possible were two-fold. When I first started travelling to Ireland in the early 1980s money was tight. Each trip had to be planned well in advance in order to accumulate the necessary funds required to cover ferries, accommodation and everything else that goes with a week away fishing. As a result, when finally the week of a much anticipated trip came around there was a self-administered pressure to do well, a need to succeed; which is another way of saying to catch as many fish as possible.

From dawn until long after dusk, whatever the weather, we'd fish. Certainly the 'Dick Mack Tides' I wrote about recently were a long way down the line from those early trips. We'd spent our hard earned money on a fishing trip and we were going to fish as much as possible, with success almost being a direct correlation between punts spent, set against pounds of fish caught.

The second reason why catching as many fish as possible figured so strongly in our thinking was that the fishing in Ireland was so good; it still is. Compared to the quality of sport that could be expected around much of mainland UK, even an average day boat fishing in Ireland would take the sport to a much higher level, especially when fishing the inshore reefs. The sport we routinely experienced over Irish reefs, many of which are located all but within spitting distance of the adjacent shoreline, was incredible.

I would go so far as to say that in some areas, Kerry being a fine example, the general standard of Irish reef fishing was vastly superior to that which at the time could be achieved over many offshore wrecks back home. This is even more so today where daily catches over many UK wrecks, even those located several hours offshore, are often pitiful when compared to those that can be made over an Irish reef.

MUST CATCH FISH!

Most of our trips were, and still are, a combination of boat and shore fishing. Even as the years progressed to the stage where increasingly we would travel primarily to fish from the shore, the opportunity for a few hours drifting baits or lures over rough ground would never been turned down. Kevin Linnane used to explain this compulsion perfectly: "A day on the reef at the start of a trip is great a way to get the 'must catch fish' angst out of your system.

Go reef fishing and catch loads of fine fish of numerous different species as soon as you can during the trip, and for the rest of the week the pressure is off, leaving your mind free to concentrate on other more species focused aspects of angling."

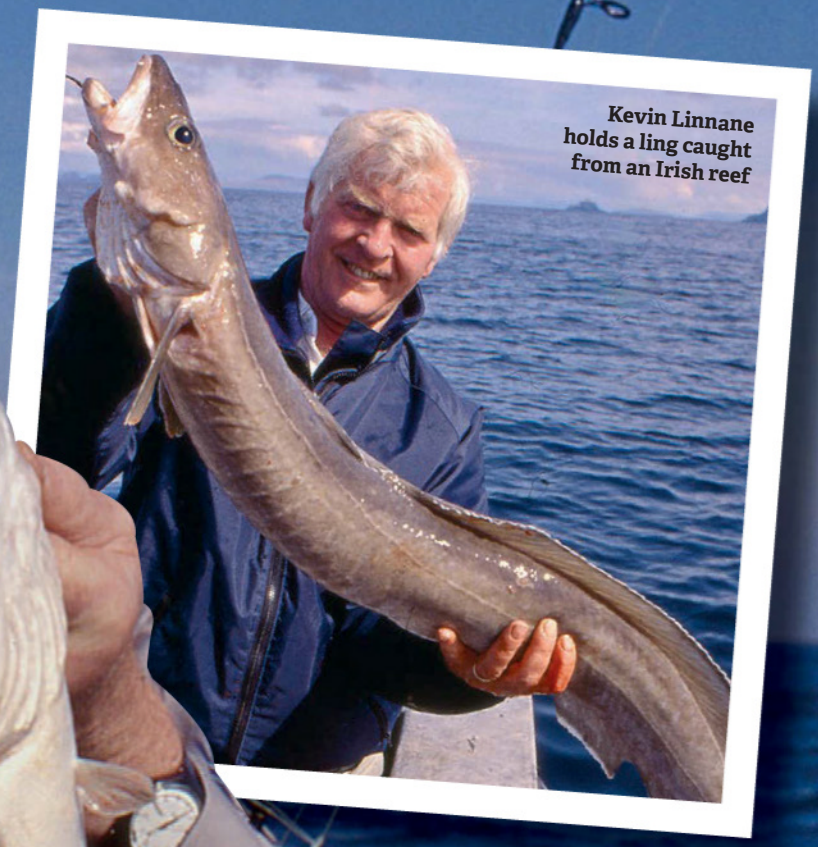
'Back in the day', to coin the much-used phrase of recent times, tackle and techniques we used when reef fishing were invariably crude. A typical outfit would consist of a 30lb class boat rod, multiplier reel loaded with monofilament line of around 20-30lb breaking strain, with a rig consisting of little more than a string of feathers, above a heavy metal pirk. These would be fished either unbaited or with each hook tipped with a thin sliver of mackerel, the addition of which would increase the chances of catching species such as ling, haddock and cod. Occasionally we would dispenses with the feathers and pirk and fish a single artificial rubber sandeel off a flying collar rig, the then commonly used technique used offshore over wrecks and reefs. But even on these occasions, usually after losing two or three rigs to the inevitable snags, more often than not I'd revert back to feathers. And why not? Feathers were, and remain, very effective and caught a lot of fish which, remember, used to be our primary objective.

Mike Hennessy playing a fish off the Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry, on modern spinning tackle

Kevin Linnane with a typical Irish reef pollack

As the years passed, so the desire to maximise upon fish caught diminished, and the techniques evolved. With the advent and increased availability of modern braided lines in the mid-1990s, thick monofilament lines and the need for heavy pirks quickly disappeared. Around the same the first widely available soft plastic lures, jelly worms, become popular, and unsurprisingly these were hugely effective in Ireland just as they were everywhere else. Jelly worms evolved into shads, unweighted at first, but soon followed by superb soft plastic lures that were pre rigged with an ultra-sharp high-quality hook and internal weight. These swam perfectly and were nothing short of deadly.

Even as recently as the end of the 1990s and into the early 2000s, it was unusual to see a fixed spool reel used aboard a UK sea angling boat. Aside from a few highly



Kevin Linnane holds a ling caught from an Irish reef

Des Brennan, regarded by many as the pioneer of sport fishing in Ireland, with a reef caught pollack

specialised light tackle applications, almost all sea anglers fished with a multiplier reel. How things have changed!

As the new millennium got under way bringing us to the present day, anglers started to benefit from some really beneficial developments in the tackle that was available. Braided lines have been perfected to the point where for someone of my vintage they are almost too thin to see! Super thin, super slick and amazingly strong for their diameter, few anglers today fish with anything other than braid. The thinner diameter quickly dispensed with the need to use large reels, that is reels with sufficient spool capacity to hold enough monofilament, which of course is much thicker than braid. Smaller reels became and are the choice of many, with a 4000 size fixed spool or even smaller being perfectly adequate.

How big is a 4000 size fixed spool? Well, it's about the size I used to use to fish in freshwater for roach or trout. And what wonderfully engineered reels many of these are, featuring incredibly strong high ratio gears, and superbly efficient and if necessary

"Compared to the quality of sport that could be expected around much of mainland UK, even an average day boat fishing in Ireland would take the sport to a much higher level, especially when fishing the inshore reefs. The sport we routinely experienced over Irish reefs, many of which are located all but within spitting distance of the adjacent shoreline, was incredible"

powerful clutch systems that can administer huge amounts of drag. These are perfect for enjoying the sport of even a modest pollack diving for cover, but they have enough power to cope easily with much, much larger fish.

Rods too have seen a huge transformation. Most 30lb class 'boat rods' of the 80s and 90s are now sat gathering dust in sheds and attics. The rod of choice for many anglers setting out to fish a reef, or even a wreck, is the humble spinning rod. Built from the latest hi-tech carbon fibres these rods are sensitive in the extreme and have the inherent power to handle substantial fish. It's hard to see how modern tackle can be even further improved to the point where it makes a noticeable difference to the products that are widely available today.

A few years ago I was back in Ireland at the start of a week-long fishing trip, more specifically the Dingle Peninsula of County Kerry. It was to be a combined boat and shore fishing trip and with perfectly settled weather at the start of the week we wasted no time in getting afloat. So one morning we sailed out of Dingle Harbour, the town's long term resident dolphin 'Fungie' surfing our bow wake, and on clearing the head steamed west towards the Blasket Islands. From numerous previous trips I knew that the reefs around The Blaskets, the most westerly point of Europe, were full of fish, but en route we stopped to fish a ridge of broken ground, not far offshore of the famous Ryan's Daughter school house.

We were a mixed crew, most of whom were equipped with the sort of 'modern' light, spinning tackle I have been discussing, and what a day it was! From the very first, drifts were constantly into fish, pollack, various species of wrasse, ling, codling coalfish and more. Nothing especially big, but all providing great sport, and the welcome opportunity to fill our boots at the start of what proved to be a hugely productive week's fishing in one of my most favourite parts of the world.

It was refreshing to see that Irish reefs were still impressively well stocked; why not head west and experience this wonderful fishing yourself… ■

Byron Way with an Irish pollack caught on a weighted shad

Words and photography by SIMON TILBURY

SEA ANGLER'S GUIDE TO CHOOSING CHEST WADERS

What are the best chest waders for sea angling and how do you look after them? We asked **Simon Tilbury**, Group Head of Marketing at Sportfish, for some expert advice

WHERE, WHEN & HOW OFTEN

While the stockingfoot wader option is most popular for freshwater wading, most sea anglers choose bootfoot waders. This style prevents the sand from clogging up your boots, as well as generally being easier to maintain and quicker to dry.

Firstly, think about when you'll be using your waders, where you'll be using them and how often. If you're mostly fishing during the summer months or will be moving around and walking in them a fair amount, it may make sense to go for the lighter more breathable options. You won't overheat in them and it's easier to move about in them. The downside to this style, however, is they are not as hard-wearing and sharp rocks and barnacles can damage the fabric more easily – plus, they tend to be more expensive.

PVC waders are much tougher, and technology these days allows for the PVC to be woven with nylon or polyester meaning they're much more lightweight and flexible than they used to be. They are also warmer than their breathable cousins. Neoprene waders provide the best warmth, however, while still allowing reasonable mobility. Much like putting on or getting out of a wetsuit, though, they can take a little longer to put on or take off.

The second thing to think about is your boot sole. You want to make sure it's chunky enough to provide comfort, stability and foot protection, but not so chunky that it impedes mobility. Think chunky not clunky. If you're clambering over lots of slippery rocks, studded felt soles can provide better grip, but for more general all-purpose sea angling, look for boot options offering deep treads and cleated soles.

The final consideration is what I like to call the "extras". A wading belt can stop too much water entering if you accidentally go for a swim and gives you something to attach accessories to. Some people prefer not wearing one though. Depending on how you transport your kit, think about whether you need a pouch or additional pockets to store key items and to keep keys or phones dry.

WADER CARE

Obvious but important is to wash down your waders with fresh water after every use. Salt water can corrode materials quicker than you think, so this is a small but simple step to prolong their life. Try to allow your waders to dry properly, preferably by hanging them in a vented, warm and dry place. If you store them when damp, over time they will develop mildew, which can damage seams or lead to material breakdown. Once your waders are dry, transfer them for storage in a cool, dry environment with adequate ventilation.

Lightweight, breathable waders are more prone to pinholes, scrapes and tears than PVC or neoprene, so try to be more careful when wading and avoid sharp edges, rocks and thorny bushes.

Inner leg abrasion is usually related to wrong sizing or heavy wear, so make sure you choose the right size (try before you buy). Walking lots in your waders can lead to fabric abrasion along the back edge of the seam. While some pinholes or tears can be addressed through self-repair using flexible waterproof adhesives, be wary of this when it comes to seams. Adhesives don't come off and using them may invalidate any warranty from the manufacturer. If you have breathable waders made from modern materials, over time you may need to reapply a DWR (Durable Water Repellency) coating to ensure they continue to repel water effectively.

Waders will not last forever, and how long they do will depend on the type and frequency of usage, and of course how well you look after them. Here are a selection of different chest wader brands, styles and price ranges which would suit sea angling. ■

SNOWBEE 210D NYLON WADEMAST WADERS

- Tough, durable and hard-wearing nylon with soft laminated PVC lining
- Outside leg seams and single back-to-front seam to avoid rubbing
- 3-in-1 chest front patch pocket with hard warmer pockets behind
- Can be easily converted into waist waders
- Cleated rubber sole
- **RRP £124.99**

SNOWBEE PRESTIGE STX2 BOOTFOOT WADERS

- Breathable, lightweight, flexible 6 layer fabric treated with DWR
- Double layer knee and seat pads for added protection
- Twin zipped front pockets with hard warmer pockets behind
- Neoprene lined heavy duty PVC boots
- Studded felt soles
- **RRP £359.00**

SNOWBEE GRANITE PVC BOOTFOOT WADERS

- Durable, heavy duty, reinforced PVC laminate with a tough, woven nylon inner lining
- Sonic welded seam technique for strong and smooth seams
- Heavy duty PVC boots
- Deep tread, cleated sole
- **RRP £79.99**

SNOWBEE CLASSIC NEOPRENE BOOTFOOT WADERS

- Quality 4mm neoprene
- Double lined knee pads for added protection
- Front pouch pocket
- High back style
- Can be easily converted into waist waders
- Neoprene lined heavy duty PVC boots
- Cleated or studded felt soles available
- **RRP £159.99**

GREYS FIN BREATHABLE BOOTFOOT WADERS

- Lightweight and breathable for optimum mobility
- Adjustable suspender for best fit
- Large front pouch pocket with flip out phone pocket
- Rubber soled boots
- **RRP £139.99**

VASS-TEX NOVA EVO STUDDED BOOTFOOT WADERS

- Quality smooth PVC outer with soft polyester inner
- Elasticated braces with quick release buckles
- Quad welded seams
- Knee reinforcement
- Internal pocket and chest draw cord
- Chunky, cleated soles with large heel kicker
- **RRP £119.99**

To view the range visit www.sportfish.co.uk or pop into the stores to try them on.

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JULY 2023

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sidewinderlures.co.uk

Words and photography by CHRIS KENNEDY

BEST IN CLASS

Chris Kennedy explains why he believes the Fiiish Black Minnow is the best soft plastic lure to be produced

This title may be controversial: there are lots of options on the market today in this very popular sector of UK lure fishing. French lure makers Fiiish were ahead of the curve in many respects and because of their tremendous success many others are desperately trying to emulate their original Black Minnow designs and ride that wave of popularity with anglers.

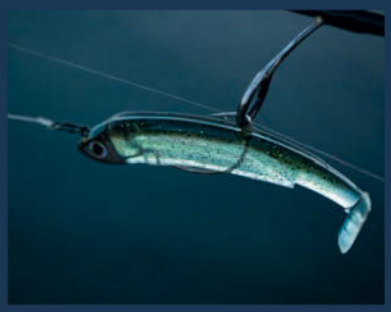
As many of you reading know, France has some fantastic lure fishing grounds on its vast coastline, and it makes perfect sense to me that one of the best lure soft-plastic designs ever should come from a people with a tradition of being fanatical about their bass fishing. I have been using the Fiiish Black Minnows in their various guises for years now; they are my trusted go-to soft plastic.

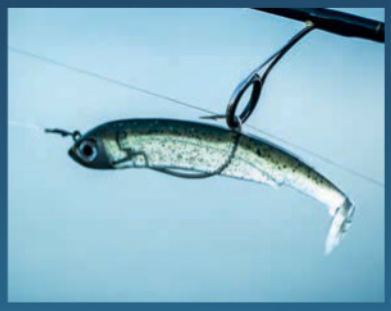
In the UK, Ireland and northern France they perform incredibly for targeting bass, pollock and ballan wrasse from the shore. They also work excellently for targeting cod, coalfish and even John Dory from boats. There are few species that won't hit the Fiiish Black Minnow. But what is it that makes them a cut above others in this competitive lure market?

The Black Minnow has garnered a reputation as an exceptional soft plastic lure for several reasons:

Realistic design: The Black Minnow is designed to mimic the appearance and swimming action of natural prey, particularly small fish like sand eels or fry. Its lifelike profile and action make it highly enticing to predatory fish like bass, making it effective in a variety of fishing scenarios. If you watch these lures swim in clear water, you'll see exactly why fish attack them; they look very enticing as they move.

Versatility: There are a wide range of jig heads available to choose from in the Black Minnow range, which allow you to fish effectively, no matter what the conditions you are presented with, whether shore or boat fishing, or whether fishing deep water, shallow reefs, calm or turbulent seas. The designers have thought of every way for these soft plastics to be versatile.





Proven effectiveness: Anglers worldwide have reported success with the Black Minnow, catching a wide range of predatory species, including bass, cod and pollack, in the UK and many others further afield. Its effectiveness in enticing strikes and consistently producing results has contributed to its popularity among both recreational and professional anglers. However, if you do take soft plastics to the tropics, you'll need a lot of lures as the teeth of fish in warmer climes seem to be overly evolved and adapted to bite through anything but the most solid objects.

Innovative features: The Black Minnow incorporates clever design features, such as its patented articulated head and body, which enhances its swimming action and realism in the water. Additionally, it comes in a variety of sizes and weights, allowing anglers to tailor their presentation to match specific fishing conditions and target species. The weedless design also means snags are cut to a bare minimum, saving you money, increasing fishing time and allowing you to fish spots that may be inaccessible using other styles of soft plastics.

Colours: Fiiish has a marvellous array of eye-catching colours designed to attract a plethora of species, and to fish effectively over varied ground lighting and sea conditions. People say it is lures that catch the angler or shopper, but I have to disagree on this occasion. Every colour catches with the Fiiish Black Minnows; they are extremely effective. I would say that in the Channel Islands, where I live, the Khaki or sandeel colour versions are prolific because we have an abundance of sandeel and launce swimming in our waters. However, the blue is a close second in terms of performance, and the "zeste de citron" green are fantastic too. The oranges, pinks, reds and vibrant colours will bag you tons of cod and coalies in cold, deep waters.

Replaceable / swapable tails: One thing I like is to be able to pack just a few jig heads for a trip, enough for a session, and then because the tails are so light, I pack a load of those in different colours, so I can swap them and see what the fish are finding most effective on the day, in the given conditions. Don't be afraid to switch things up.

It's this combination of realism, versatility, proven effectiveness and innovative design features that makes the Black Minnow stand out as the best soft plastic lure available to anglers today. They're truly excellent. ■

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY HENRY GILBEY

FORCES OF GRAVITY

Henry Gilbey explains why the Gravity Shallow is his ideal choice of hard lure for shallow water rough-ground fishing

Most bass anglers are going to have a bit of a thing for long-casting and very shallow swimming hard lures, especially with the sort of ground so many of us fish. I also believe that less is often more in bass fishing; a degree of subtlety when a lure is on the retrieve can often be a good thing. The newish Savage Gear Gravity Shallow hard lures come in two sizes – 10cm/14g and 11.5cm/20g – and are my ideal ultra-shallow diving lures for fishing over shallow and rough ground.

There are subtly different ways to design hard lures which fit into this category and the guy behind these lures came at them from his ingenious Gravity Pencil: a small, dense, hard lure designed mainly for fishing in warmer waters, although I have had bass in the surf on them. They have relatively high sides for such a small lure which helps to promote stability. Markos went back to his original Gravity Pencil designs and thought about how to create an ultra-shallow diver instead. After a lot of testing and refinements, these two sizes of Gravity Shallow lures are the result.

Both of them cast like missiles. I find that if you dial back from your full power cast and instead turn your rod over at 75 per cent, then this is when lures like these go out straight and true. This can be the case with a number of different lures; you don't always need to absolutely blast everything to get the best out of it. It's pretty amazing how well the smaller 10cm/14g version of the Gravity Shallow casts. I really like the strong range of colours and I know how good the hooks and split-rings are that come rigged on these lures. I also really like that there has been a recent price drop on both sizes, because any kind of price drop feels increasingly rare these days.

WHACK 'N' WIND

There is no need to do any more with the Gravity Shallow lures than pick the right mark and simply whack them out and wind them in. Those high sides on the lures promote a very stable action in surprisingly bouncy conditions. Very shallow-diving hard lures obviously get chucked around that bit more in rougher water because they swim right in the increased turbulence.

That being said, the Gravity Shallow lures do a very good job. I prefer to straight retrieve at what I think of as a medium speed. I think this promotes an ideal action which, as I said above, is nice and subtle thanks to that small but pronounced lip. There is a bit of a "wiggle" when you fish them like this and I tend to gravitate towards hard lures like this for much of my bass fishing in shallow water. Wash these Gravity Shallow lures down in freshwater after fishing and they will remain in perfect condition for a long time. ■

- **RRP: £14.99**
- **veals.co.uk**

WIN AND STAY COOL!

This month we are offering one reader the chance to win a Yeti Hopper Soft Backpack Cooler worth a whopping £325

The Hopper M20 Soft Cooler is a hands-free cool bag that comfortably straps on like a backpack to keep you mobile, while a strip of ultra-strong magnets keeps the cold locked in. MagShield Access creates an ultra-leak-resistant shield that stays open when you need it and snaps closed with a gentle push.

The high-density fabric withstands punctures and UV rays. To help extend the life of the cooler, both the interior and exterior materials are treated to be mildew resistant.

The Hitchpoint Grid allows you to securely attach accessories such as pliers, disgorgers and other tools where they are easily available when you need them.

The closed-cell foam offers impressive cold-holding capabilities, helping keep your bait or day's catch ice cold and in pristine condition.

There's no need to worry about leaks either as RF welding is used to eliminate stitching and provide leakproof seams in the interior liner.

Every pick-up point is reinforced so you can handle more weight than you'd prefer to carry. Plus, the slim, tapered design and ergonomic straps evenly distribute weight for when carrying the backpack to or back from a day's fishing.

Don't miss out on the chance to win this fantastic prize. Simply enter free online at...

www.seaangler.co.uk/win

Terms and conditions: Entries close at 23:59 on 20/06/2024 and the winners will be drawn on 21/06/2024. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the close of entries. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entry is free. Open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Employees of Kelsey Media and their family members are not eligible to win. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. There is no cash alternative and the prize is not transferable. If any prize or product is lost or damaged during the course of delivery to the recipient, Kelsey Media will provide reasonable assistance in seeking to resolve the problem. However, it will not always be possible to obtain replacements for lost or damaged goods, and in that event, no financial compensation would be payable by Kelsey Media or their affiliates. We reserve the right to cancel the competition, if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and country may be published if you win.

SPRING SPECIAL

BOAT STORE

Tim Macpherson previews a selection of the newest products available for boat fishing including a man overboard device, a portable fishing pack from Garmin and Mercury's most powerful new electric outboard engines.

SMRT ALERT AIS DSC MOB

The sMRT ALERT AIS DSC MOB is an innovative man overboard device that features AIS and VHF DSC technologies in a sleek, compact design. This device priorities user-friendliness without sacrificing functionality or reliability and is ready for immediate use.

A standout feature of the sMRT ALERT is its water activation technology. Designed to activate upon immersion, this feature ensures the device automatically sends a distress alert and location when you enter the water. Alongside manual activation, it offers peace of mind knowing the beacon will work even if you're unable to activate it or if your life jacket malfunctions.

The device is adaptable to various life jacket styles with multiple fixing options. This allows users to integrate the sMRT ALERT into their life jacket without the need for complex fitting instructions. Additionally, the sMRT ALERT comes equipped with an internal DSC receiver, enabling it to receive and display DSC acknowledgements.

Compatible with the sMRT Beacon Management mobile app, users can easily conduct product health checks, monitor device status in real-time, and maintain a record of test history. Serving as a digital dashboard, the app provides valuable insights, ensuring the device always operates at peak performance.

- **RRP: £270**
- **smrtsos.com**

RAILBLAZA GEAR HUB

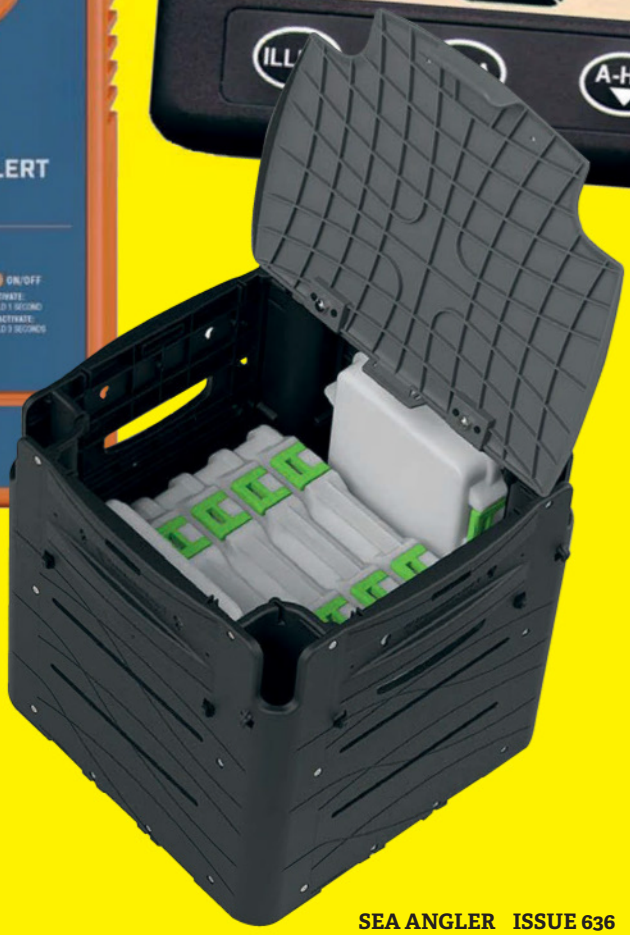
With four internal rod holders, keeping your rods secure and accessible has never been easier with the new Gear Hun from Railblaza.

The Gear Hub comfortably accommodates eight Plano 3600 tackle boxes, ensuring you have all your favourite lures and essentials at your fingertips. The nine integrated tracks allow you to add several other Railblaza tackle storage options like the StowPod.

Explore endless customisation options with nine integrated accessory tracks. Attach additional rod holders, cup holders or any other accessories to personalise your setup.

Multiple tie-down points ensure that Gear Hub stays securely in place, and the solid lid provides not only protection for your gear but also a comfortable place to sit. Rod and reel tethers are included, providing extra peace of mind that your expensive equipment stays put, even in rough waters.

- **SRP ex VAT: £74.96**
- **smgeurope.com**



NASA CLIPPER BATTERY MONITOR BM2

It's essential to have a reliable battery and being able to monitor the charge is always useful. The BM-2 is designed to monitor performance of 12-volt lead acid battery systems with capacities of up to 999 amp hours. It is supplied complete with a precision 200 amp shunt and a prefabricated cable assembly to enable simple DIY installation. The unit continuously monitors voltage, current, number of amp/hours, the battery's state of charge and the time to charge or discharge. This information leads to more efficient use, which can enhance battery life and reduce the risk of failure.

- £129.99
- marinesuperstore.com

MUSTANG SURVIVAL ATLAS 190 PRO SENSOR LIFE JACKET

Recipient of a Special Mention at the DAME Design Awards in the Personal Equipment category, the Atlas 190 Life Jacket is a ground-breaking inflatable platform with a re-engineered bladder for exceptional turning performance and airway protection. These life jackets emphasise comfort during prolonged wear and impressive safety – 190N of buoyancy – when inflated. The Atlas utilises ADAPT Technology (Advanced Airway Protection & Turning); bladder lobes shaped to turn the wearer face up effectively, baffle barriers dissipate incoming waves and an integrated pillow provides optimal head support and stability.

The deluxe (DLX) model adds an integrated spray hood for extra airway protection and a water-activated light for increased visibility in emergencies, ensuring everyone returns home safely.

- Atlas 190 Pro Sensor Life Jacket: £210
- Atlas 190 DLX Pro Sensor Life Jacket: £230
- mustang-survival.co.uk

OCEAN SAFETY RESCUEME PLB1

The RescueME PLB1 personal locator beacon provides the reassurance that, in the event of a man overboard situation or other emergency at sea, global emergency services can be alerted by the press of a button. The RescueMe PLB1 can be operated with a single hand in even the most challenging situations. A simple spring-loaded flap covers the activation button preventing inadvertent use.

RescueME PLB1 works with the only officially recognised worldwide dedicated search and rescue satellite network. As this is funded by governments there are no charges to use this service.

- RRP: £347.95
- oceansignal.com

MERCURY MARINE AVATOR ELECTRIC OUTBOARDS

Mercury Marine unveiled two new low-voltage electric outboards, the Avator 75e and 110. These complete Mercury's five model line-up of low-voltage electric propulsion and bring Avator's innovative features and intuitive use to a higher power level. The Avator 75e and 110e can be used in a variety of boat types, including aluminium and composite multihull, aluminium fishing boats, skiffs, inflatables and smaller fibreglass runabouts. Like the 20e and 35e, the new models will also be used in commercial fleet applications and in ICE restricted waterways.

The 75e produces 7.5kW (7500W) of propulsive power at the propeller and the 110e produces 11kW (11000W) of propulsive power at the propeller. The Avator has intuitive tiller or remote controls and is comfortable, responsive and easy to use. It's a low maintenance engine which is always ready to go. Each outboard is made with components that are recyclable or reusable.

- From: £3,200 for the 7.5e ranging up to £10,500 for the 35e.
- mercurymarine.com

PENN SEA LEAGUE FINAL RESULT 2024

SUPER SAUL DOES THE DOUBLE

England international Saul Page emerged victorious once again at the Angling Trust – Penn Sea League final in a hard-fought match in Norfolk, this time doing the double after winning the League in December too

Saul Page Penn Sea League Final 2024 winner with trophy

Fishing on a blustery Weybourne Beach on the county's picturesque north coast, the big final was a showdown for 50 of the country's top shore anglers who had been invited to go head-to-head after a year of point scoring matches.

Winner Saul, from Deal, Kent, picked up £2,000 of Penn prizes after finishing with 123 points for the year, leading a strong chasing pack including Grimsby's George Smith in second on 90 points and Old Colwyn's Shane Russell in third place with 79.

Open to all, over 18,000 anglers took part in Penn point scoring matches in 2023, and on the shore on the Saturday were a host of international anglers and sea angling superstars all vying for the title. With the league table wrapped up in December, the top 50 anglers had been invited to a weekend's match where a £1,000 Penn tackle prize and the famous trophy was awarded to the winner. Each zone winner also collected Penn Fathom II Casting Special reels worth £250 each.

Saul is one of just a handful of anglers who have done the double, winning the League and Final in the same campaign, finishing the day with 44 fish for an incredible 915 points. He had a flying start to the day too, his first cast producing a 55cm bass within four minutes of the whistle! A steady stream of whiting and dabs for the rest of the day sealed the victory.

Saul Page with a 55cm bass

Saul Page Penn Sea League Final 2024 winner action at Weybourne Beach Norfolk

Runner-up Daz Newland made the journey from the Isle of Wight to Norfolk and finished with 33 fish and 478 points, just ahead of Garry Hutson, from Cleethorpes, on 31 fish and 442 points.

The Angling Trust would like to thank Penn for their continued sponsorship of the competition, Sir Michael Savory and the staff at the Muckleburgh Military Collection for the HQ, Norfolk Angling Club for the use of the beach, National Organiser Ian Bowell, and all the anglers and match organisers for ensuring the event remains the number one in the match calendar. The Angling Trust Penn Sea League is run with the support of Sea Angler Magazine. ■

Watch the full highlights video on the Angling Trust Competitions' YouTube channel

2024 PENN SEA LEAGUE

ANGLING TRUST

Penn Sea League final 2024 top 3: Saul Page (centre), Daz Newland (left), Garry Hutson (right)

Individual Positions

Angler Name	Zone	Peg	No. Fish	Fish Points	Weight		Day Points	Match Position	PENN POINTS
					lbs	oz			
Saul Page	**A**	**15**	**44**	**915**	**19**	**1**	**1**	1	10
Darren Newland	**B**	**19**	**33**	**478**	**9**	**15 1/3**	**1**	2	10
Garry Hutson	**C**	**37**	**31**	**442**	**9**	**3 1/3**	**1**	3	10
Tom Wells	A	11	41	685	14	4 1/3	2	4	9
Sam Collier	B	23	31	457	9	8 1/3	2	5	9
Colin Crosby	C	39	26	352	7	5 1/3	2	6	9
Shane Russell	A	16	36	563	11	11 2/3	3	7	8
Joe Wales	B	24	29	438	9	2	3	8	8
Gareth Griffiths	C	36	24	346	7	3 1/3	3	9	8
Nathan Elliott	A	13	30	528	11	0	4	10	7
Julian Shambrook	B	27	27	400	8	5 1/3	4	11	7
Tony Roberts	C	35	25	320	6	10 2/3	4	12	7
Philip A Lee	B	18	29	366	7	10	5	13	6
Ben Bradstock	C	43	21	297	6	3	5	14	6
Simon Drayton	A	14	18	274	5	11 1/3	5	15	6
Wayne McGilloway	B	25	21	349	7	4 1/3	6	16	5
Chris Read	C	45	18	255	5	5	6	17	5
Andrew Dugdale	A	3	16	253	5	4 1/3	6	18	5
Ged Stevens	B	29	23	336	7	0	7	19	4
Wayne Davidson	C	38	10	243	5	1	7	20	4
Dave Shorthouse	A	12	14	207	4	5	7	21	4
Shaun Moore	B	31	19	303	6	5	8	22	3
Gavin Owen	C	41	19	231	4	13	8	23	3
Joe Plumstead	A	1	11	167	3	7 2/3	8	24	3
Darren Bond	B	33	19	279	5	13	9	25	2
Shaun Tucker	C	46	12	188	3	14 2/3	9	26	2
Chris O'Sullivan	A	9	7	99	2	1	9	27	2
Daniel Crump	B	22	17	267	5	9	10	28	1
Rob Tuck	C	42	12	186	3	14	10	29	1
Lloyd Summer	A	10	6	85	1	12 1/3	10	30	1
George Smith	B	30	12	226	4	11 1/3	11	31	
Lee Smith	C	40	11	157	3	4 1/3	11	32	
Simon Springell	A	2	6	70	1	7 1/3	11	33	
Henry Randell	B	21	13	170	3	8 2/3	12	34	
Neil Cutler	C	50	4	78	1	10	12	35	
Chris Jones	A	4	4	59	1	3 2/3	12	36	
Dave Dai Llewelyn	B	26	11	169	3	8 1/3	13	37	
Jim Morris	C	44	6	54	1	2	13	38	
Tony Thomas	B	28	5	84	1	12	14	39	
Ian Nelson	C	49	2	44	0	14 2/3	14	40	
Dai Loder	B	32	7	81	1	11	15	41	
Adrian Bordianu	C	48	3	37	0	12 1/3	15	42	
David O'Sullivan	C	47	2	37	0	12 1/3	16	43	
Andy Crowe	A	5	0	0	0	0	17	51	
Steve Potts	A	6	0	0	0	0	17	51	
Ben Shepherd	A	7	0	0	0	0	17	51	

SECTION A

Peg	Name	No. Fish	Total Weight Points	Weight		Day Points	Section Position
				(lbs)	(ozs)		
15	Saul Page	44	915	19	1	1	1
11	Tom Wells	41	685	14	4 1/3	2	2
16	Shane Russell	36	563	11	11 2/3	3	3
13	Nathan Elliott	30	528	11	0	4	4
14	Simon Drayton	18	274	5	11 1/3	5	5
3	Andrew Dugdale	16	253	5	4 1/3	6	6
12	Dave Shorthouse	14	207	4	5	7	7
1	Joe Plumstead	11	167	3	7 2/3	8	8
9	Chris O'Sullivan	7	99	2	1	9	9
10	Lloyd Summer	6	85	1	12 1/3	10	10
2	Simon Springell	6	70	1	7 1/3	11	11
4	Chris Jones	4	59	1	3 2/3	12	12
5	Andy Crowe	0	0	0	0	17	17
6	Steve Potts	0	0	0	0	17	17
7	Ben Shepherd	0	0	0	0	17	17
8	Did Not Fish 3	0	0	0	0	17	17
17	Did Not Fish 1	0	0	0	0	17	17

SECTION B

Peg	Name	No. Fish	Total Weight Points	Weight		Day Points	Section Position
				(lbs)	(ozs)		
19	Darren Newland	33	478	9	15 1/3	1	1
23	Sam Collier	31	457	9	8 1/3	2	2
24	Joe Wales	29	438	9	2	3	3
27	Julian Shambrook	27	400	8	5 1/3	4	4
18	Philip A Lee	29	366	7	10	5	5
25	Wayne McGilloway	21	349	7	4 1/3	6	6
29	Ged Stevens	23	336	7	0	7	7
31	Shaun Moore	19	303	6	5	8	8
33	Darren Bond	19	279	5	13	9	9
22	Daniel Crump	17	267	5	9	10	10
30	George Smith	12	226	4	11 1/3	11	11
21	Henry Randell	13	170	3	8 2/3	12	12
26	Dave Dai Llewelyn	11	169	3	8 1/3	13	13
28	Tony Thomas	5	84	1	12	14	14
32	Dai Loder	7	81	1	11	15	15
20	Did Not Fish 4	0	0	0	0	17	17
34	Did Not Fish 5	0	0	0	0	17	17

SECTION C

Peg	Name	No. Fish	Total Weight Points	Weight		Day Points	Section Position
				(lbs)	(ozs)		
37	Garry Hutson	31	442	9	3 1/3	1	1
39	Colin Crosby	26	352	7	5 1/3	2	2
36	Gareth Griffiths	24	346	7	3 1/3	3	3
35	Tony Roberts	25	320	6	10 2/3	4	4
43	Ben Bradstock	21	297	6	3	5	5
45	Chris Read	18	255	5	5	6	6
38	Wayne Davidson	10	243	5	1	7	7
41	Gavin Owen	19	231	4	13	8	8
46	Shaun Tucker	12	188	3	14 2/3	9	9
42	Rob Tuck	12	186	3	14	10	10
40	Lee Smith	11	157	3	4 1/3	11	11
50	Neil Cutler	4	78	1	10	12	12
44	Jim Morris	6	54	1	2	13	13
49	Ian Nelson	2	44	0	14 2/3	14	14
48	Adrian Bordianu	3	37	0	12 1/3	15	15
47	David O'Sullivan	2	37	0	12 1/3	16	16
51	Did Not Fish 2	0	0	0	0	17	17

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Words and photography by DARREN MCKELL

PINK PANTHER: RAISING AWARENESS FOR BREAST CANCER

Darren McKell reports on a unique cancer awareness initiative launched at the latest Sea Angling Classic qualifier held at Lymington Yacht Haven

The Pink Panther team at Lymington

The team in action

On a crisp day in April, Lymington Yacht Haven played host to the Sea Angling Classic Qualifier. The event offered the winning anglers the opportunity to secure free entry into the prestigious competition taking place in June.

The atmosphere was electric as anglers arrived by boat in Lymington on Friday evening, brimming with excitement for the days ahead. Among them was Team Squidward who embarked on a special mission for this event. Luke and Caz teamed up with Gemma from Ship Happens and Izzy from Crewsaver to fish aboard the brand-new Parker Pilot House 700, Pink Panther.

Gemma with a smoothhound

ALL FEMALE TEAM

The Pink Panther holds a special significance as it symbolises the beginning of an all-female team dedicated to raising awareness for breast cancer while competing in the Sea Angling Classic.

Generously donated for the charity event, the Pink Panther boasts top-of-the-line equipment, including a Mercury engine, Lowrance navigation system, Railblazer products, and so much more. The crew, adorned in eye-catching Crewsaver pink lifejackets, not only looked the part but also

contributed to the cause: 100 per cent of proceeds from the sale of these limited edition lifejackets go towards charity.

As anglers took to the water on Saturday, hopes were high and lines were cast into the Solent. Competitors had a limited window of five hours to reel in the largest target fish; the species were bass, smoothhounds, rays and bream. Despite the competitive atmosphere, camaraderie flourished among participants as they shared in the thrill of the chase.

The results began to pour in on the live app, showcasing impressive catches from skilled anglers. Standout performances included Martin Fisher's 63cm bass, Curt Curtis' 39cm bream, Mick Teague's 53cm ray and Mike Long's impressive 104cm smoothhound.

As the day drew to a close, anglers returned to Lymington Yacht Haven for the prize-giving ceremony where they were treated to drinks and delicious food courtesy of The Chilli Chain. Among the winners, congratulations were in order for Badboyz, who clinched the overall top spot, earning a coveted place for two anglers in the Sea Angling Classic main event which will be held in Portsmouth in June.

The event not only showcased the skill and camaraderie of anglers but also highlighted the power of sport to unite communities and support worthy causes. With the success of this event, the stage is set for the main event, where anglers will come together to celebrate their passion for fishing and make a meaningful difference in the fight against breast cancer.

SPECIAL EDITION

Crewsaver recently unveiled a special edition of its iconic Crewfit 165N Sport lifejacket in vibrant pink, raising awareness and vital funds for breast cancer awareness with 100 per cent of sales being donated to Cancer Research UK.

Drawn to the unwavering beacon of hope offered by Cancer Research UK, this disease, much like tumultuous waves, threatens lives and disrupts the tranquillity of families across the globe.

A limited quantity of the unique lifejackets has been manufactured, proudly displaying the pink ribbon symbol synonymous with breast cancer. They are exclusively available via a donation link through a dedicated funding page, with a minimum donation of £100. So far they have raised around £2,600. Get yours today and stay safe on the water at the same time as contributing to the fight against breast cancer. What are you waiting for! ■

For more on this initiative go to crewsaver.com/uk/news/

"The event not only showcased the skill and camaraderie of anglers but also highlighted the power of sport to unite communities and support worthy causes"

WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance match events planner ● = Penn Sea League

JUNE

● **2:** Gwent SAC Open Cardiff Foreshore. Contact Ivor Smith: 07854 829590.

● **2:** Yorkshire Summer League 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, East Halton, 1pm- 5pm. Meet 12:00; no Maddies (all other baits allowed); measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. Contact Brett: 07834 559265.

● **6:** Fishon Tackle, round 6, Kicker/Stokes Bay, 8-12pm. Signing in 6-7pm from Gilkicker car park, Military Road; pegged measure and release anything over 18cm; no bait restrictions; £10 member, £12.50 non-members; back up venue for all matches is Eastney. Contact Ashley Dowdeswell: 02394 007684 or 07807 639872.

● **7-8:** Channel Anglers SAC 2023, Minehead Festival, Friday 7th June. Fishing 5.30-9.30pm; Saturday 8th June, fishing 6-10pm – two hours either side of high water each day; 90 pegs available; 6 zones of 15 anglers: A - zone Porlock Wier pegs 1 - 15; B - zone Bossington pegs 16 - 30; C - zone Bossington pegs 31 - 45; D - zone Golf Links pegs 46 - 60; E - zone Golf Links pegs 61 - 75; F - zone Blue Anchor pegs 76 - 90. Entry £80 all including bait supplied; 1 rod, 3 hooks; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight. Peg draws for both days and bait collection each day T.B.A. Contact main event organiser James Madsen: 07900 651071.

● **9:** LSAC Summer League 2024, Individual and Teams of 5 qualifiers and Opens, N Channel 4-8pm; pegged; SAMF length conversion table. Contact Chris Isaac: 07831 308344.

● **9:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers Open, Riverside Drive. For more details and to book a peg please contact Chris Horn: 07872 94480.

● **15:** Mersey Cheshire Sea Anglers Community Club, Holyhead Breakwater. Fishing the inside; 1-6pm; 90 peg limit; £20 match fee. Contact John Kerr via Facebook for details or email: johnkerr68@icloud.com

● **16:** Anglesey Match Anglers, Holyhead. Back of the breakwater; 80 peg limit; £20 entry. Fishing 1-6pm; no size limit; measure everything except mackerel, herring, launce, sea trout. Rays measured nose to tail; no white rag. Contact Dave Cave: 07493 149584.

● **16:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge Round 2 Kings Lynn, contact Mike: 07858 758669, Tony: 07780 793141, thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **22:** Southern League round 6 of 12 & Open. Cogden, 6-11pm; pegged; measure & return; £15 match entry; £5 pools; £10 pair; team of five free; 2022 League entry £25; booking ends one hour before start; book only. Contact Darren: 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714 or Ant: 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

PENN PLUS

● **22:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5), meet and draw 5.30pm; fishing 6.45-10.45pm; £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun); 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers; £20 entry per match (100 per cent pay-out); zone prizes; heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged and zoned (3 zones); maximum 60 pegs available; 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions. Pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652

● **23:** Foords Open. Fishing 10-3pm; weigh in for 4pm at Foords Hotel, Filey. Heaviest fish match; £12 entry, £2 juniors. Contact Scott Blowman: 07934 049126

● **23:** Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, Delis 1-5pm. Check-in at the car park. Entry: senior €15, junior €10 contact; Chris O'Sullivan: 08515 32770.

● **29:** Excelsior Sea Fishing Club Open, Stannah, 4-8pm. Contact Jay Cityzen: 07999 416559.

● **29:** Samalite Chesil League round 5 of 10, Abbotsbury. 7pm-12am; measure and release to the new SAMF chart for all species. Fish may be kept for the table or for bait but must be marked by snipping the tail after it has been recorded. Pre-book only. Contact Dave Lane: 07977 132951 Dave Lane: lanedc@talktalk.net

● **30:** Angling Cymru Sea Anglers East Region, Cardiff Foreshore. Contact Ivor Smith: 07854 829590.

● **30:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and Opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5). Meet and draw 11.45pm; fishing 1-5pm; £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun); 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers; £20 Entry per match (100 per cent pay-out); zone prizes; heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged and zoned (3 zones); maximum 60 pegs available; 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions; pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

● **30:** Yorkshire Summer League 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, East Halton: 11:15-3:15pm; meet 10am; no maddies – all other baits allowed; measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. Contact Brett: 07834 559265.

JULY

● **5:** Fishon Tackle, round 7, Hayling: Fishing 8-12pm; signing in 6-7pm from Millers Eastoke corner; pegged measure and release; anything over 18cm; no bait restrictions; £10 member; £12.50 non-members; back up venue for all matches is Eastney. Contact Ashley Dowdeswell: 02394 007684 or 07807 639872.

● **6:** Reel Fun Fishing: Aust and Littleton Open: Meet & Draw 4.45pm at Aust. Fishing 6.45-10.45pm (2h either side of high water); 100 pegs available; £25 entry (100 per cent pay-out); all pegged & zoned (4 zones 25 anglers); 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions. Pre-book and pre-pay only. Call Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

● **6:** Smoothhound Open, Chapel St Leonard's: Fishing 2-7pm; pre pay and pre draw. Contact Mark: 07500 112515

● **7:** Yorkshire Summer League 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, Bonkers Bank: Fishing 6-10pm; meet 4-30-5pm; no maddies; all other baits allowed; measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. Contact Brett: 07834 559265.

● **14:** Yorkshire summer league 2024, teams of 5 qualifiers, Hessle: Fishing 10:30am-2:30pm; meet 9:30am; no maddies; all other baits allowed; measure to weight conversion; no minimum hook sizes; 40 pegs; pre book only. Contact Brett: 07834 559265.

● **14:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge, Round 3 Kings Lynn: Contact Mike: 07858 758669 or Tony: 07780 793141 thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **14:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, East Fife Open. For more details and to book a peg please contact Chris Horn: 07872 94480

● **20:** Southern League round 7 of 12 & Open, Gosport: Fishing 7.30-00.30am; pegged; measure & return; £15 match entry; £5 pools; £10 pair; team of five free; 2022 League entry £25; booking ends one hour before start; book only. Contact Darren: 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714 or Ant: 07775 691916. Nick: southernleagueandopens@gmail.com

● **20:** Skua Angling Club, North West 5 Angler Team League, Talacre: Fishing 3-7pm; meet in main beach car park; £20 per angler; individuals welcome, book on through skua Facebook page. Bait restrictions: mackerel, lugworm, ragworm, squid only – no maddies/harbour rag; 3 hooks; minimum size limit 18cm.

● **20:** henrystackleshop.com all-Ireland hound championship, Kilmuckridge: Fishing 6-11pm. Contact John: 087–7413964, Marco: 087-1672633, Donal: 087-6905374.

● **20:** Reel Fun Fishing: League and Opens, Littleton-upon-Severn Series: 5 matches (best 4 from 5): Meet and draw 4.30pm; fishing 5.45-9.45pm; £30 League entry (pre-pay at Reel Fun); 100 per cent pay-out top 8 anglers; £20 entry per match (100 per cent pay-out); zone prizes; heaviest fish and winner's bonus. All pegged & zoned (3 zones); Maximum 60 pegs available; 1 rod 3 hooks; 18cm size limit on all species; catch, measure, witness, return and convert to weight (heaviest bag); no bait restrictions. Pre-book only. Contact Reel Fun Fishing: 01275 848652.

● **20:** Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, Kerry Pairs: 11-4pm; Cappaclough; check-in at the carpark. Entry: senior €15 and junior €10. Contact Chris O'Sullivan: 08515 32770.

● **21:** Bedlington summer league Match 3, Newton: Entry £12; heavy fish heavy bag; fishing 8.00-12.00; register 6.30-7.00 at Newton carpark. Boundaries: Snook Point to the cliff at Dunstinbrough Castle (excluding cliff). contact Steve Williams: 07852 351493.

2024 PENN SEA LEAGUE

ANGLING TRUST

Congratulations to the 290 anglers who have scored Penn Sea League points since January 1st. Here's the full leader board for 2024 so far. Those names highlighted in blue are all registered for the 2024 league and prizes. If you wish to be eligible for prizes and potentially fish the grand final in 2025 then you need to register via the Angling Trust website.

1	Saul Page	Deal	64
2	Gareth Griffiths	Bar in Furness	40
3	Wayne Leason	Hull	38
4	D Shorthouse	Kettering	37
5	Sam Collier	Deal	35
6th	Ben Bradstock	Honiton	32
	Richard Yates	St Marg Bay	32
	Scott Moore	Hartlepool	32
	Shaun Moore	Cardiff	32
10th	Louie Smith	Deal	30
11th	Ged Stevens	Barr in Furness	29
	M Wilding	Scarborough	29
13th	Dave Wade	Hove	28
	Mark Taylor	Grimsby	28
15th	Tom Wells	Deal	23
16th	Allan Hughes	Holyhead	22
17th	Darren Browne	South Shields	20
	George Smith	Grimsby	20
	Mel McIntyre		20
	Tommy Tate	Sunderland	20
21st	Chris Guthrie	Cramlington	19
	Matt White	Lancaster	19
23rd	A Dugdale	Peel	18
	Ben Laws	Whitby	18
	Darren Bond	Lancing	18
	Keith Smith	Blyth	18
	Lloyd Summers	Caerphilly	18
	Neil Cutler	Gateshead	18
	Paul Kemp	Hull	18
	Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	18
	Troy Francis	Killarney	18
32nd	Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	17
	D Newland	Ryde	17
	D Richardson		17
	Gordon Blyth	Partington	17
	Nathan Elliott	Dover	17
37th	A Chester	Hedon	16
	Ben Price	Holyhead	16
	Matty Sabiston	Grimsby	16
	M Lazenby		16
	Wayne Davison	Thornton	16
42nd	Paul Smith	South Shields	15
	Ray Shepherd	Hedon	15
	Tony Roberts	Holyhead	15
45th	Alan Price	Rhyl	14
	Frank Potter		14
	Gary Medler	Marsham	14
	George Horner	Scarborough	14
	John Johnson	Minehead	14
	Les Mason	Kendal	14
51st	Alan Bound		13
	Craig Buy	Colchester	13
	Dave Cave	Holyhead	13
	David Cooper	Edinburgh	13
	Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	13
	Joe Wales	Shoreham	13
	Malcolm Stote	Lymington	13
	Peter Row	Fareham	13
	Rob McDonald	Sprotborough	13
60th	Ben Arnold	Brighton	12
	Craig Maddock	Caerphilly	12
	Jason Carter	Doddington	12
	Joey Brady		12
	Kevin Warner	Horncastle	12
	N Westgarth	Stock on Tees	12
	Rob Prince		12
	Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	12
68th	Alan Brigham	South Shields	11
	A Pemberton	Fareham	11
	Colin Crosby	Hastings	11
	Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	11
	Gavin Owen	Consett	11
	Jeff Fisk	Bournemouth	11
	Mike Kyle	Easthouses	11
	Paddy Kerrigan	Jarrow	11
	Paul Stevens	Worthing	11
77th	Bobby Drew		10
	Brett Bartram	Barton	10
	Chris Stringer	Whitley Bay	10
	Daniel Crump	Barry	10
	David Bond		10

TOP SCORERS – APRIL 2024

This month's winner was Tom Wells, from Deal, with 17 points

1st	Tom Wells	Deal	17
2nd	Joe Wales	Shoreham	13
3rd	Nathan Elliott	Dover	12
	Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	12
5th	Colin Crosby	Hastings	11
	Gavin Owen	Consett	11
	Paddy Kerrigan	Jarrow	11
	Wayne Leason	Hull	11
9th	D Newland	Ryde	10
	Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	10
	Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	10
	Neil Cutler	Gateshead	10
	Sam Collier	Deal	10
	Saul Page	Deal	10
	Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	10
16th	Dave Wade	Hove	9
	Steve Potts	Gosforth	9
18th	Ben Bradstock	Honiton	8
	G Griffiths	Bar in Furness	8
	Joe Plumstead	Pevensey Bay	8
	Tony Roberts	Holyhead	8
22nd	Bob Gascoigne	Cramlington	7
	J Shambrook	Torquay	7
	M Laycock	Workington	7
	Peter Gaitskell	Bar in Furness	7

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the Angling Trust. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com

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Century are now one of the leading producers of top of the range surf rods, with fantastic advances in rod build technology, and one of the best finishes on the market, and top notch rings. Just pick one to suit your fishing you can't go wrong. Gerry's also now are the only supplier that can custom finish your rods, you need to call us to discuss your wants and needs. Gerry's have been building rods in house for 40+ years!

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12-20lb 7ft 6" £344.99
20-40lb 8ft 4" £364.99
20-50lb 8ft 4" £369.99

		RRP	Gerrys Price
Tip Tornado Graphex Sport 13' 11" / 125-225g	Heavy - Mixed	£685.00	£599.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch 13' 6" / 125-200g	Light Heavy - Smooth	£640.00	£559.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Match 13' 6" / 125-175g	Mixed - Smooth	£635.00	£554.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD 13' / 50-150g	Mixed - Smooth	£610.00	£534.99
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g	Smooth	£585.00	£509.99
Eliminator T1200 14' 10" / 125-225g	Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Eliminator T1200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g	Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Eliminator T1000 14' 10" / 125-200g	Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Eliminator T900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g	Heavy - Mixed	£715.00	£624.99
Eliminator T800-SGT 13' 6" / 100-175g	Mixed - Smooth	£655.00	£574.99
Eliminator T700-SGT 15' / 100-170g	Mixed - Smooth	£685.00	£599.99
Excalibur TT 14' 10" / 100-225g	Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Excalibur J 13' 6" / 100-200g	Mixed ground	£615.00	£539.99
Excalibur C 13' 10" / 100-200g	Heavy - Mixed	£615.00	£539.99
Kompressor WR 300 13' 3" / 125-225g	Heavy ground	£640.00	£559.99
Kompressor SS 13' 10" / 125-200g	Heavy ground	£570.00	£499.99
Kompressor S 13' 10" / 125-200g	Heavy - Mixed	£565.00	£494.99
TTR 14' / 125-225g	Heavy ground	£770.00	£674.99
Tip Tornado Sport 13' 6" / 125-225g	Heavy - Mixed	£570.00	£499.99

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As you would expect from Daiwa, a new rod that will take some beating at this price. They look and fish like a rod twice the price! UK built with a choice of 2 lengths 13ft 6" cast 4-7oz and 14ft 2" cast 4-8oz both with great tips that won't bounce around in the tide but as most Daiwa have exceptional bite registration and cast great. Movable reel seats and K style guides (braid friendly) and hybrid design suitable for multi or fix spool reel.

13ft 6" only £229.99 14ft 2" only £239.99

NEW PENN TIDAL BEACH

These are nothing like the older Tidals but a completely new designed surf rod that knocks spots off anything else close to this price! Both 4-8oz. Use for multi or fi x spool movable reel seats, durable braid friendly saltwater resistant guides

13ft £129.99
14ft £139.99

PENN TIDAL AFRICA 4.0M 600-800G

Normally £159.99 **Gerry's sale £79.99**

The Tidal Africa is a super powerful and strong that is capable of casting big baits or heavy leads without any effort guys who want to fish for really big fish should look at this a one off offer, when they're gone they're gone!

PENN OVERSEAS II 4PC BOAT RODS

Penn Overseas II Boat Rods 4pc rods all 7ft is the perfect travel for any faraway destinations. The stainless steel Fuji guides. The stiff action rods allows direct feel and power to fight monster fish., 24Ton carbon allows super slim dia blanks without compromising the strength.

Includes Cordura travel tube tube length 78 cm (31")
sizes 12-20lb, 20-30lb, 30-50lb
Any one norm £99.99 **Gerry's £85.99**

PENN REGIMENT III PRO BOAT 702- 7FT

Very very special sale price norm £139.99 **now £79.99** Ltd stock!
don't miss this a quality rod from a trusted manufacturer!

- High Modulus 32T Carbon blank
- SLS3 blank construction
- Premium grade cork handle
- SW proof SeaGuide XE-SS guides
- Heavy Duty DPS reel seat
- Cross Gimbal

sizes: 12-20lb/20-30lb-30-50lb

PENN OKUMA SOLTERRA LEVER DRAG LEVEL WIND

At last something we have been asked for over and over, a quality reel that has lever drag and a level wind, so allows perfect line lay, especially handy when using braid.
Stainless Steel Main Gear, Pinion Gears & Shafts

- Carbonite Drag System with Cal's Universal Drag Grease
- Double Dog Silent Anti-Reverse on All Models
- Stainless Steel Body Armor Reduces Frame Flex (20-50W Models)
- Thrust Bearings Help Reduce Handle Turning Resistance
- max drag 33lbs/15kg

Backed by a 5-year Okuma warranty, yes 5 Years!

Sizes: LX 10 £179.99, LX 15 £179.99 and LX 20 £219.99

Zziplex ZIPLEX IS BACK AT GERRYS CALL FOR UPDATE ON LATEST STOCK!

NEW SUNSET SURF RODS

These replace the so successful range of 2022 Sunsets, that gave as these do spectacular value for money and slim blanks with lightness just choose your money range you can't go wrong!

Sunset Skandal Marea Power Surf 14ft 4-7oz
norm £87.99 **Gerry's £69.99**
Easy to use progressive action which is idea to use fishing over clean to slightly mixed ground. It is fitted with a power tip making it suitable to use in stronger tides. also available in 14ft 9" 4-8oz
norm £99.99 **Gerry's £79.99**

Sunset Hypra Surf 420 3pc HYBRID Surf 14ft
4-8oz norm £137.99 **Gerry's £97.99**
All Hypra in Carbon "Technifibre" – blank Thin and powerful - 3 sections - Tubular reel seat - Anti-tangle "K Frame" SiC rings - Hybrid tip for optimal bite detection **Sunset Hypra Surf 420 3pc Power Surf 14ft 4-9oz** norm £139.99 **Gerry's £99.99** power tip, superb rock and rough ground continental also available as a **15ft 3 piece same spec 4-8oz** norm £139.99 **Gerry's £99.99**

Sunset Seven Seas Ultra Power Surf 14ft 420 3pc 4-9oz norm £199.99 **Gerry's £169.99**
A powerful continental rod which is ideal for general all-round fishing on clean to mixed ground, ideal for faster tides and targeting larger species such as rays and hounds

Sunset Forza Power Surf 14ft 420 3pc 4-9oz norm £384.99 **Gerry's £289.99**
Gerry,s think this is a brilliant rod, versatile as the tip will see Flounders at distance but cope with 9oz casting weights, powerful slim rod but so lite in the hand.
also available as a hybrid tip same money!

SOME OF THE BEST SELLING SURF REELS, BUT WE HAVE MANY MORE!

SHIMANO BULLSEYE 9120
NORM £449.99 **GERRY'S £399.99**

- Probably one of the best f/s you can buy!
- HAGANE Gearing
- Weight 540g
- Aluminum cold forged spool
- 5 ball bearings
- Slow Oscillation
- Perfect line lay

AKIOS AIRLOOPS BLACK EDITION
R8 **£124.99** R10 **£134.99**

- Super Slow Oscillation for Exceptional Casting Performance
- High Strength Composite Body & Rotor
- 8+1 Stainless Steel Shielded Bearings
- Corrosion Resistant Instant Anti-Reverse Bearing
- Two Anodised Aluminium Spools Included
- 1 x Deep Spool R8 270x15lb,R10 300x18lb, 1 x Shallow Spool R8 230x12lb, R10 250x15lb

TRONIXPRO BANZAI 8000 LONG CAST
NORM £99.99 **GERRY'S £79.99**

Taking the world by storm
9+1 b/bearings
Long cast spool and spare
4.4-1 ratio
Looks amazing!

PENN SPINFISHER VII LONGCASTS
IPX5 Mag sealed, longcast ali spools 5+1 b/bearings, x wrap line for great casting

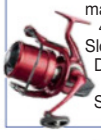
5500LC 285yds x 12lb mono
Norm £204.99 **Gerry's £169.00**
6500LC 350yds x 15lb mono
Norm £219.99 **Gerry's £179.00**
7500LC 480yds x 20lb mono
Norm £229.99 **Gerry's £195.00**

TRONIXPRO GUERILLA 6500 MONO MAG LEFT OR RIGHT HAND WIND
NORM £99.99 **GERRY'S £79.99**

Amazing value, a mag casting reel for this money? How? Mag control, floating spool, 275yds x 0.35lb mono

DAIWA 20 TOURNAMENT BASIA 45 SCW
NORM £749.99 **GERRY'S £599.99**

Probably one of the best f/s you can buy! Maybe the longest casting spool ever made. Magsealed, Zaion Body, 45mm LC Long Cast Spool, Slow Cross Wrap, QD Quick Drag, Aluminium Tough Digigear, Spare Spool Supplied.



WE STOCK AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF BIG SOFT SHAD AND EEL LURES, THESE ARE SOME OF THE MOST SOLD:

All sizes & colours stocked from 16gms upwards

Savage Gear 4D Herring Shad
so real in 4D imaging!
cols: Cod, Glow Haddock, Real Herring, Green Mackerel, Mackerel
32cm 560gms £20.99
25cm 300gms £17.99

Savage Gear Sandeel V2
Cols:Blue Pear/Silver,Green Silver, Lemon Back, Orange Glow, Puffin
27.5cm 27gms inc spare body
£18.99

Westin Sandy Andy
Cols:Cola Cacao,Glow Gadus,Motor Oil Gadus,Robo Cod,Tois Ammo
28cm 300gms £24.99

Gerry's Fishing THE UK'S NUMBER 1 NORWAY SPECIALIST!

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GERRY'S CAN HELP AND ADVISE WITH ANGLERS THAT SPECIALISE IN NORWAY AND OVERSEAS ANGLING, WE HAVE ANGLERS THAT HAVE BEEN TO MANY DESTINATIONS JUST CALL 01524-422146 OPTION 1 ASK FOR ADVICE! "ANGLERS SERVING ANGLERS"